Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on March 15, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, March 15, 2002

Remarks on Signing the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002

March 9, 2002

Good morning. I'm speaking to you live from the Rose Garden, where I'm about to sign legislation that will give short-term help to workers who have lost their jobs and provides long-term stimulus to create more jobs across our country.

I want to thank the Vice President. I want to thank Speaker Hastert, Senator Daschle, Senator Lott, Members of the Congress for joining me today as I sign this important piece of legislation. Many contributed to the success of this bill, but none more than the Speaker, and Chairman Bill Thomas.

Also here today are working men and women, small-business people who make this economy run. We're seeing some encouraging signs in the economy, but we can't stand by and simply hope for continued recovery. We must work for it. We must make sure that our recovery continues and gains momentum. We want a recovery that is broad enough and strong enough to provide jobs for all our citizens.

The terrorist attacks of September the 11th were also an attack on our economy, and a lot of people lost their jobs. Since then, many laid-off workers have been relying on unemployment benefits, which normally end after 26 weeks. The bill I sign this morning will allow the extension of jobless benefits by another 13 weeks, and even longer in States with high unemployment rates. This will allow those who lost their jobs in the recession or in the aftermath of the September the 11th attacks more time to pay their bills and support their families while they look for work.

And in order for people to find jobs, businesses need to be hiring. So this new law will provide tax incentives for companies to expand and create jobs by investing in plant and equipment. This measure will mean more job opportunities for workers in every part of our country, especially in manufacturing and in high tech and for those who work for small businesses. This bill will also stimulate economic growth by extending net operating loss rules and by granting some alternative minimum tax relief.

The city of New York suffered a great tragedy on September the 11th and still faces major economic consequences. The bill I sign into law today provides over $5 billion in tax relief to aid in the recovery of lower Manhattan by helping businesses to get back on their feet so they can start hiring again. The people of New York have shown great courage, perseverance, and America stands with them.

This Monday marks 6 months since the attack on America. For the families of the victims, these have been 6 months of sorrow, and America will never forget their loss.

In our war on terror, these have been 6 months of determined action. We have destroyed terrorist camps. We've disrupted terrorist finances. We've toppled a terrorist regime and brought thousands of terrorists to justice. We are strengthening our Nation's defenses against attack. And today we are acting to help workers. We're acting to create jobs, and we're acting to strengthen our economy.

Thank you all for coming, and it is now my honor to sign this important piece of legislation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House, and his remarks were broadcast live and served as his weekly radio address. H.R. 3090, approved March 9, was assigned Public Law No. 107–147.

Remarks on the Six-Month Anniversary of the September 11th Attacks

March 11, 2002

Diplomatic representatives of the coalition of nations; Members of the Congress, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court; members of the American Armed Forces; military coalition members from around the world; distinguished guests; and ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the White House.

We have come together to mark a terrible day, to reaffirm a just and vital cause, and to thank the many nations that share our resolve and will share our common victory.

Six months separate us from September the 11th. Yet, for the families of the lost, each day brings new pain; each day requires new courage. Your grace and strength have been an example to our Nation. America will not forget the lives that were taken and the justice their death requires.

We face an enemy of ruthless ambition, unconstrained by law or morality. The terrorists despise other religions and have defiled their own. And they are determined to expand the scale and scope of their murder. The terror that targeted New York and Washington could next strike any center of civilization. Against such an enemy, there is no immunity, and there can be no neutrality.

Many nations and many families have lived in the shadows of terrorism for decades, enduring years of mindless and merciless killing. September the 11th was not the beginning of global terror, but it was the beginning of the world's concerted response. History will know that day not only as a day of tragedy but as a day of decision when the civilized world was stirred to anger and to action. And the terrorists will remember September 11th as the day their reckoning began.

A mighty coalition of civilized nations is now defending our common security. Terrorist assets have been frozen. Terrorist front groups have been exposed. A terrorist regime has been toppled from power. Terrorist plots have been unraveled from Spain to Singapore. And thousands of terrorists have been brought to justice, are in prison, or are running for fear of their lives.

With us today are representatives from many of our partners in this great work, and we're proud to display their flags at the White House this morning. From the contributions these nations have made—some well known, others not—I am honored to extend the deepest gratitude of the people of the United States.

The power and vitality of our coalition have been proven in Afghanistan. More than half of the forces now assisting the heroic Afghan fighters or providing security in Kabul are from countries other than the United States. There are many examples of commitment. Our good ally, France, has deployed nearly one-fourth of its navy to support Operation Enduring Freedom, and Great Britain has sent its largest naval task force in 20 years. British and American special operations forces have fought beside teams from Australia and Canada, Norway, Denmark and Germany. In total, 17 nations have forces deployed in the region. And we could not have done our work without critical support from countries, particularly, like Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Japanese destroyers are refueling coalition ships in the Indian Ocean. The Turkish air force has refueled American planes. Afghans are receiving treatment in hospitals built by Russians, Jordanians, Spanish, and have received supplies and help from South Korea.

Nations in our coalition have shared in the responsibilities and sacrifices of our cause. On the day before September the 11th, I met with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia, who spoke of the common beliefs and shared affection of our two countries. We could not have known that bond was about to be proven again in war, and we could not have known its human cost. Last month, Sergeant Andrew Russell of the Australian Special Air Service died in Afghanistan. He left behind his wife, Kylie, and their daughter, Leisa, just 11 days old. Friends said of Sergeant Russell, "You could rely on him never to let you down."

This young man and many like him have not let us down. Each life taken from us is a terrible loss. We have lost young people from Germany and Denmark and Afghanistan and America. We mourn each one. And

for their bravery in a noble cause, we honor them.

Part of that cause was to liberate the Afghan people from terrorist occupation, and we did so. Next week, the schools reopen in Afghanistan. They will be open to all, and many young girls will go to school for the first time in their young lives. Afghanistan has many difficult challenges ahead, and yet, we've averted mass starvation, begun clearing minefields, rebuilding roads, and improving health care. In Kabul, a friendly government is now an essential member of the coalition against terror.

Now that the Taliban are gone and Al Qaida has lost its home base for terrorism, we have entered the second stage of the war on terror, a sustained campaign to deny sanctuary to terrorists who would threaten our citizens from anywhere in the world.

In Afghanistan, hundreds of trained killers are now dead. Many have been captured. Others are still on the run, hoping to strike again. These terrorist fighters are the most committed, the most dangerous, and the least likely to surrender. They are trying to regroup, and we'll stop them. For 5 months in Afghanistan, our coalition has been patient and relentless, and more patience and more courage will be required. We're fighting a fierce battle in the Shahi Khot Mountains, and we're winning. Yet, it will not be the last battle in Afghanistan. And there will be other battles beyond that nation.

For terrorists fleeing Afghanistan, for any terrorist looking for a base of operations, there must be no refuge, no safe haven. By driving terrorists from place to place, we disrupt the planning and training for further attacks on America and the civilized world. Every terrorist must be made to live as an international fugitive, with no place to settle or organize, no place to hide, no governments to hide behind, and not even a safe place to sleep.

I have set a clear policy in the second stage of the war on terror: America encourages and expects governments everywhere to help remove the terrorist parasites that threaten their own countries and peace of the world. If governments need training or resources to meet this commitment, America will help.

We are helping right now in the Philippines, where terrorists with links to Al Qaida are trying to seize the southern part of the country to establish a militant regime. They are oppressing local peoples, and they have kidnaped both American and Filipino citizens. America has sent more than 500 troops to train Philippine forces. We stand with President Arroyo, who is courageously opposing the threat of terror.

In the Republic of Georgia, terrorists working closely with Al Qaida operate in the Pankisi Gorge near the Russian border. At President Shevardnadze's request, the United States is planning to send up to 150 military trainers to prepare Georgian soldiers to reestablish control in this lawless region. This temporary assistance serves the interests of both our countries.

In Yemen, we are working to avert the possibility of another Afghanistan. Many Al Qaida recruits come from near the Yemen-Saudi Arabian border, and Al Qaida may try to reconstitute itself in the remote corners of that region. President Salih has assured me that he is committed to confronting this danger. We will help Yemeni forces with both training and equipment to prevent that land from becoming a haven for terrorists.

In the current stage of the war, our coalition is opposing not a nation but a network. Victory will come over time, as that network is patiently and steadily dismantled. This will require international cooperation on a number of fronts, diplomatic, financial, and military. We will not send the American troops to every battle, but America will actively prepare other nations for the battles ahead. This mission will end when the work is finished—when terror networks of global reach have been defeated. The havens and training camps of terror are a threat to our lives and to our way of life, and they will be destroyed.

At the same time, every nation in our coalition must take seriously the growing threat of terror on a catastrophic scale, terror armed with biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons. America is now consulting with friends and allies about this greatest of dangers, and we're determined to confront it.

Here is what we already know. Some states that sponsor terror are seeking or already

possess weapons of mass destruction. Terrorist groups are hungry for these weapons and would use them without a hint of conscience. And we know that these weapons, in the hands of terrorists, would unleash blackmail and genocide and chaos.

These facts cannot be denied and must be confronted. In preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, there is no margin for error and no chance to learn from mistakes. Our coalition must act deliberately, but inaction is not an option. Men with no respect for life must never be allowed to control the ultimate instruments of death.

Gathered here today, we are 6 months along—a short time in a long struggle. And our war on terror will be judged by its finish, not by its start. More dangers and sacrifices lie ahead. Yet, America is prepared. Our resolve has only grown, because we remember. We remember the horror and heroism of that morning, the death of children on a field trip, the resistance of passengers on a doomed airplane, the courage of rescuers who died with strangers they were trying to save. And we remember the video images of terrorists who laughed at our loss.

Every civilized nation has a part in this struggle, because every civilized nation has a stake in its outcome. There can be no peace in a world where differences and grievances become an excuse to target the innocent for murder. In fighting terror, we fight for the conditions that will make lasting peace possible. We fight for lawful change against chaotic violence, for human choice against coercion and cruelty, and for the dignity and goodness of every life.

Every nation should know that for America, the war on terror is not just a policy; it's a pledge. I will not relent in this struggle for the freedom and security of my country and the civilized world.

And we'll succeed. There will be a day when the organized threat against America, our friends, and allies is broken. And when the terrorists are disrupted and scattered and discredited, many old conflicts will appear in a new light, without the constant fear and cycle of bitterness that terrorists spread with their violence. We will see then that the old and serious disputes can be settled within the bounds of reason and good will and mutual security. I see a peaceful world beyond the war on terror, and with courage and unity, we are building that world together.

Any nation that makes an unequivocal commitment against terror can join this cause. Every nation of good will is welcome. And together, we will face the peril of our moment and seize the promise of our times.

May God bless our coalition.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:10 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines; President Eduard Shevardnadze of the Republic of Georgia; and President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on the Unveiling of the September 11th United States Postage Stamp

March 11, 2002

The President. Welcome. We're about to unveil a stamp. It's an extraordinary piece of work. I want to thank the photographer here, and I want to thank Gary Ackerman for sponsoring it. This stamp will sell for 45 cents; 11 cents, obviously, more than the current price of a stamp. Eight cents will go to a victims' fund to help those family members who are struggling in the aftermath of 9/11. It is a—it's a good gesture by the Postal Service. The Postmaster General is here, and I want to thank you for that very much.

Postmaster General Potter. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The three officers are here, and they're on the stamp. And I appreciate you all allowing your—allowing the Postal Service to use you as a way to help our Nation remember the terrible incident that took place 6 months ago and help people get their lives back in order.

And so it's with pleasure that we reveal the stamp.

[*At this point, the stamp was unveiled.*]

The President. Fabulous, good job, really good job.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to Thomas E. Franklin, staff photographer, Bergen County, NJ, Record; and New York City firefighters William Eisengrein, George Johnson, and Daniel McWilliams, photographed raising the U.S. flag at Ground Zero following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7531—Bicentennial Day of the United States Military Academy at West Point, 2002

March 11, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For two centuries, the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, has trained, educated, and inspired thousands of cadets to serve our Nation with integrity, skill, and fortitude as members of our military's officer corps. West Point emphasizes the very highest standards of personal honor, academic achievement, and public duty, preparing its graduates for lives of patriotic commitment and distinguished service. Since the school's beginnings, West Point alumni have played an immensely important role in protecting our national security and preserving democracy around the world.

Upon this 200th anniversary of the Academy's founding, we celebrate West Point's great contributions to the success and strength of America. We pay tribute to the Academy's extraordinary tradition of valor, victory, and sacrifice. This hallowed history is filled with the names of soldiers who fought and sometimes died to preserve and protect the founding principles of our country, ensuring that we can live today in a free and democratic Republic.

On March 16, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed an Act of Congress establishing the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Since its inception, the institution has played a central role in the training of America's future military leaders. And West Point graduates have marked our history with courage beyond the call of duty; integrity that brought honor to themselves, their school, and their Nation; and military skills that achieved victory after victory.

Academy graduates have long fulfilled West Point's noble tradition of selfless service to country. General John J. Pershing led the American Expeditionary Force to victory in World War I. And in World War II, Generals Dwight Eisenhower, Omar Bradley, Douglas MacArthur, and George Patton proved again the resourcefulness, bravery, and skill of West Point's graduates, helping to lead the Allies to victory over tyranny. In Korea and Vietnam, during Operation Desert Storm, and now in Operation Enduring Freedom, West Point graduates, like Generals Brent Scowcroft, Roscoe Robinson, H. Norman Schwarzkopf, and Franklin "Buster" Hagenbeck, have continued to make significant contributions and great sacrifices for America and her people. And the graduates of West Point continue to be prepared to make the greatest sacrifice. We remember with deep respect and honor, the sacrifice made by Academy graduate, Major Curtis Feistner, who recently gave his life in the fight against terror.

As part of the 200th anniversary of the United States Military Academy, I encourage all Americans to reflect on the Academy's incomparable history of contribution to our country's national security and to remember the West Point graduates who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom. The Academy's role in protecting our homeland and in shaping our next generation of battlefield leaders deserves the gratitude and respect of every American. I am pleased to pay tribute to this noble school upon the occasion of its historic anniversary; and I am honored to be serving today as Commander in Chief of so many of its fine graduates.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 16, 2002, as West Point Bicentennial Day. I encourage Federal, State, and local officials, as well as leaders of civil, social, educational, and military organizations, to conduct ceremonies and programs that celebrate the United

States Military Academy and the values it represents and upholds.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:39 a.m., March 12, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 13.

Message on the Observance of Saint Patrick's Day

March 7, 2002

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

On this day, millions of people in Ireland and throughout the world will gather to commemorate the life of Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. From his days as a slave in Ireland to his work as a missionary years later, St. Patrick demonstrated a courage, commitment, and faith that won the hearts and minds of the Irish people. St. Patrick's Day also serves as a time for people of Irish descent from all traditions and religions to honor their native land and shared heritage.

This celebration is particularly important in the United States, as we recognize the contributions of the millions of Irish-Americans who immigrated to our shores from the earliest years of our Republic. They dedicated themselves to the challenges of building America and achieved success and prosperity. The industry, talent, and imagination of the Irish have enriched our economy and culture. Their strong record of public service has fortified our democracy. And their devotion to family, faith, and community has strengthened our country's character.

On St. Patrick's Day, Americans from every background join in celebrating the rich culture of the Irish and our continued friendship with the people of Ireland. Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable celebration.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 12. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Directive on the Homeland Security Advisory System

March 11, 2002

Homeland Security Presidential Directive–3

Purpose

The Nation requires a Homeland Security Advisory System to provide a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State, and local authorities and to the American people. Such a system would provide warnings in the form of a set of graduated "Threat Conditions" that would increase as the risk of the threat increases. At each Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies would implement a corresponding set of "Protective Measures" to further reduce vulnerability or increase response capability during a period of heightened alert.

This system is intended to create a common vocabulary, context, and structure for an ongoing national discussion about the nature of the threats that confront the homeland and the appropriate measures that should be taken in response. It seeks to inform and facilitate decisions appropriate to different levels of government and to private citizens at home and at work.

Homeland Security Advisory System

The Homeland Security Advisory System shall be binding on the executive branch and suggested, although voluntary, to other levels of government and the private sector. There are five Threat Conditions, each identified by a description and corresponding color. From lowest to highest, the levels and colors are:

Low = Green;
Guarded = Blue;
Elevated = Yellow;
High = Orange;
Severe = Red.

The higher the Threat Condition, the greater the risk of a terrorist attack. Risk includes both the probability of an attack occurring and its potential gravity. Threat Conditions shall be assigned by the Attorney General in consultation with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. Except in exigent circumstances, the Attorney General shall seek the views of the appropriate Homeland Security Principals or their subordinates, and other parties as appropriate, on the Threat Condition to be assigned. Threat Conditions may be assigned for the entire Nation, or they may be set for a particular geographic area or industrial sector. Assigned Threat Conditions shall be reviewed at regular intervals to determine whether adjustments are warranted.

For facilities, personnel, and operations inside the territorial United States, all Federal departments, agencies, and offices other than military facilities shall conform their existing threat advisory systems to this system and henceforth administer their systems consistent with the determination of the Attorney General with regard to the Threat Condition in effect.

The assignment of a Threat Condition shall prompt the implementation of an appropriate set of Protective Measures. Protective Measures are the specific steps an organization shall take to reduce its vulnerability or increase its ability to respond during a period of heightened alert. The authority to craft and implement Protective Measures rests with the Federal departments and agencies. It is recognized that departments and agencies may have several preplanned sets of responses to a particular Threat Condition to facilitate a rapid, appropriate, and tailored response. Department and agency heads are responsible for developing their own Protective Measures and other antiterrorism or self-protection and continuity plans, and resourcing, rehearsing, documenting, and maintaining these plans. Likewise, they retain the authority to respond, as necessary, to risks, threats, incidents, or events at facilities within the specific jurisdiction of their department or agency, and, as authorized by law, to direct agencies and industries to implement their own Protective Measures. They shall continue to be responsible for taking all appropriate proactive steps to reduce the vulnerability of their personnel and facilities to terrorist attack. Federal department and agency heads shall submit an annual written report to the President, through the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, describing the steps they have taken to develop and implement appropriate Protective Measures for each Threat Condition. Governors, mayors, and the leaders of other organizations are encouraged to conduct a similar review of their organizations' Protective Measures.

The decision whether to publicly announce Threat Conditions shall be made on a case-by-case basis by the Attorney General in consultation with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. Every effort shall be made to share as much information regarding the threat as possible, consistent with the safety of the Nation. The Attorney General shall ensure, consistent with the safety of the Nation, that State and local government officials and law enforcement authorities are provided the most relevant and timely information. The Attorney General shall be responsible for identifying any other information developed in the threat assessment process that would be useful to State and local officials and others and conveying it to them as permitted consistent with the constraints of classification. The Attorney General shall establish a process and a system for conveying relevant information to Federal, State, and local government officials, law enforcement authorities, and the private sector expeditiously.

The Director of Central Intelligence and the Attorney General shall ensure that a continuous and timely flow of integrated threat assessments and reports is provided to the President, the Vice President, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. Whenever possible and practicable, these integrated threat assessments and reports shall be reviewed and commented upon by the wider interagency community.

A decision on which Threat Condition to assign shall integrate a variety of considerations. This integration will rely on qualitative assessment, not quantitative calculation. Higher Threat Conditions indicate greater risk of a terrorist act, with risk including both probability and gravity. Despite best efforts, there can be no guarantee that, at any given Threat Condition, a terrorist attack will not occur. An initial and important factor is the quality of the threat information itself. The evaluation of this threat information shall include, but not be limited to, the following factors:

1. To what degree is the threat information credible?

2. To what degree is the threat information corroborated?

3. To what degree is the threat specific and/or imminent?

4. How grave are the potential consequences of the threat?

Threat Conditions and Associated Protective Measures

The world has changed since September 11, 2001. We remain a Nation at risk to terrorist attacks and will remain at risk for the foreseeable future. At all Threat Conditions, we must remain vigilant, prepared, and ready to deter terrorist attacks. The following Threat Conditions each represent an increasing risk of terrorist attacks. Beneath each Threat Condition are some suggested Protective Measures, recognizing that the heads of Federal departments and agencies are responsible for developing and implementing appropriate agency-specific Protective Measures:

1. Low Condition (Green). This condition is declared when there is a *low risk of terrorist attacks*. Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures they develop and implement:

a) Refining and exercising as appropriate preplanned Protective Measures;

b) Ensuring personnel receive proper training on the Homeland Security Advisory System and specific preplanned department or agency Protective Measures; and

c) Institutionalizing a process to assure that all facilities and regulated sectors are regularly assessed for vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks, and all reasonable measures are taken to mitigate these vulnerabilities.

2. Guarded Condition (Blue). This condition is declared when there is a *general risk of terrorist attacks*. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

a) Checking communications with designated emergency response or command locations;

b) Reviewing and updating emergency response procedures; and

c) Providing the public with any information that would strengthen its ability to act appropriately.

3. Elevated Condition (Yellow). An Elevated Condition is declared when there is a *significant risk of terrorist attacks*. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

a) Increasing surveillance of critical locations;

b) Coordinating emergency plans as appropriate with nearby jurisdictions;

c) Assessing whether the precise characteristics of the threat require the further refinement of preplanned Protective Measures; and

d) Implementing, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans.

4. High Condition (Orange). A High Condition is declared when there is a *high risk of terrorist attacks*. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

a) Coordinating necessary security efforts with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies or any National Guard or other appropriate armed forces organizations;
b) Taking additional precautions at public events and possibly considering alternative venues or even cancellation;
c) Preparing to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing their workforce; and
d) Restricting threatened facility access to essential personnel only.

5. Severe Condition (Red). A Severe Condition reflects a *severe risk of terrorist attacks*. Under most circumstances, the Protective Measures for a Severe Condition are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time. In addition to the Protective Measures in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies also should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

a) Increasing or redirecting personnel to address critical emergency needs;
b) Assigning emergency response personnel and prepositioning and mobilizing specially trained teams or resources;
c) Monitoring, redirecting, or constraining transportation systems; and
d) Closing public and government facilities.

Comment and Review Periods

The Attorney General, in consultation and coordination with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, shall, for 45 days from the date of this directive, seek the views of government officials at all levels and of public interest groups and the private sector on the proposed Homeland Security Advisory System.

One hundred thirty-five days from the date of this directive the Attorney General, after consultation and coordination with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and having considered the views received during the comment period, shall recommend to the President in writing proposed refinements to the Homeland Security Advisory System.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This directive was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 12.

Remarks in a Discussion on Community Service in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

March 12, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Well, Chris, thank you very much. And thank you all for coming. I've been really looking forward to coming back to Philadelphia. After all, it was here that Benjamin Franklin set the stage for what it means to be a good volunteer. He started a university and started a library. He rallied people to help neighbors in need. So this is a good place to come and conduct a national dialog on the importance of people serving neighbors in need and the importance of people volunteering in their community.

And I want to thank Chris so very much for agreeing to be a moderator, but also thank you for your service to the Philadelphia community.

Sometimes when the President shows up, we get a pretty august crowd of elected officials here. I know the mayor is here somewhere. I want to thank the mayor for coming. Mr. Mayor, thank you for being here—oh, yes. Senator Specter, Senator Santorum, Congressmen Borski and Greenwood, Congressmen Weldon and Hoeffel, thank you all for coming. I know the attorney general of the State of Pennsylvania is here as well. Welcome, Mike.

It's good to see members of the mighty Pennsylvania congressional delegation, a fine lot. [*Laughter*] I know they understand the proper role of Government. And that is that Government can't make people love one another. I wish it could. I promise you, I'd sign the law—[*laughter*]—and they would all sponsor it. But we understand that Pennsylvania, like the other States in our Union, are full of compassionate people. And the job of Government is to serve as a catalyst to capture that compassion.

And that's incredibly important as we fight this war on terror. You know, we've got a great military might in the United States, and I can't tell you how proud I am of our military. But another strength of the country is our compassion and our love for each other.

You know, I want to thank the Big Brothers and Big Sisters who are represented here. I want to thank the Points of Light Foundation, the Network for Good. I want to thank Gloria Guard, who recently—recently, I mean, just like a couple of minutes ago—[*laughter*]—led me on the tour of her beautiful place, where homeless women and their children are loved and cared for and given training to succeed. What a successful program that's been. You know, if we'd have had hearings on that in Washington about how to make that program successful, they'd still be meeting—[*laughter*]—and will be meeting and would have been meeting for a decade. But there are social entrepreneurs in our society who help define America. And one of my jobs is to herald those social entrepreneurs and to thank them on behalf of all Americans.

I believe out of this evil will come incredible good. And one of the good things that will happen is that Americans will ask the question about how I can help fight evil by doing something good. That's how I think we ought to do it. I think we ought to say that if you're interested in fighting evil, love a neighbor. If you're interested in doing something for your country, help somebody in need; write a check; give your time; volunteer.

Societies change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time, and Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts. And we're here to talk about how to put hope in people's hearts, because people love one another.

One of the things I've asked the country to do is to think about 4,000 hours of public service, for the rest of your life or 2 years. That's not hard for some, I understand that. I bet you've already done that.

Audience member. I think so.

The President. Well, you've got another 4,000 to go. [*Laughter*] People that responded—I mean, the response has been fantastic ever since my State of the Union, when I said, "Serve the country." Let me just give you an example: 18,000 people have asked how to—if they can join the Peace Corps. And we're going to talk about the Peace Corps in a minute. AmeriCorps is up by 50 percent. The Citizen Corps numbers are up; the Senior Corps number is up by 500 percent. In other words, Americans have been asked to respond, and they are. And for that, we're a grateful nation.

Let me just talk about the USA Freedom Corps right quick. It's a chance for people to participate. It's an opportunity for people to join the AmeriCorps, which is a way to help strengthen community, Senior Corps, which is a way to help strengthen community and/or join in the fight against terror by being a part of a neighborhood watch program, for example. The Citizens Corps, as well, are to—help reinforce the first-responders in local communities. And of course, the Peace Corps is an opportunity to spread American values throughout the world. And if people are interested in joining the USA Freedom Corps, you can do so by calling 1–877–USA–Corps—or usafreedomcorps.gov on the Internet.

But serving America doesn't have to go through USA Freedom Corps. It's just an opportunity. You can serve America all kinds of ways. You can do so through a faith-based initiative. And one of the things we must do is get our Faith-Based Initiative passed out of the United States Senate. It already has passed the House. You can do so through United Way agencies. And by the way, they're not mutually exclusive.

And if you do, one of the things that I have asked our White House staff to put together is a booklet that would give you an opportunity to record your service. And if you're interested in picking up one of these, just dial up the Web site. If you're interested in recording, not only for yourself but recording for your family or a child, perhaps, what you've done to make America a better place, this is a good go-by. This is a good opportunity to bring a little discipline into your volunteer service.

When I looked at this, I envisioned kind of an interesting diary that can be passed from one generation to the next. I can't think of anything more interesting than a mom or

a dad volunteering, recording his or her thoughts, giving it to a child, who gives it to a grandchild. So somebody is sitting there reading about what it was like to live in the 21st century and how to help a neighborhood in need, for example, or how to help a person in need.

I also want you to know that you can do the same thing through an online tracking system on the USA Freedom Corps Web page.

And as well I'm going to instruct the agencies—Cabinets—in my Government to figure out ways to reduce barriers for people to be able to get involved better in their communities. I mean, sometimes we've got a process-oriented world. We ought to be a results-oriented world. We ought to care less about rules and regulations and more about how we're helping people help themselves. And so I'm looking forward to my Cabinet officers reporting back, and when we find barriers, we'll do everything we can to prevent them from inhibiting the love that exists in the neighborhoods around our country.

I believe that in order to live in a free society, you need to give something back. In order to make a society vibrant, all of us owe something to America. And one way to provide that is either through the military or through loving somebody and showing it through actual deeds. And I know that when you do so, I know that when you help a neighbor in need, it is a part of a complete life. It's a part of making sure that your life is not empty. It's a part of making sure that you are able to really understand the joys of a giving existence.

And so thank you for coming by. Thank you for listening to an optimistic President. I am so optimistic about our future. Not only do I believe that we're going to have lasting peace when we achieve our objectives in the war against terror, but I know that afterwards and during this period of trauma for many Americans, this country's strength, its goodness, and compassion will serve as a beacon for the rest of the world to see.

God bless you.

[*At this point, the discussion began.*]

The President. You know, AmeriCorps has got 50,000 AmeriCorps-ians. [*Laughter*] And we hope to have 75,000—at least the budget calls for an increase of 50 percent in AmeriCorps corps. Thank you for your example.

Ms. Cardy. Sure. I think that we need to get the word out to more youth.

The President. You bet.

Ms. Cardy. I think that youth is a real strength in our community.

The President. Well, one way to do so is for people to see what joy you get in serving your community and how it's a part of a full life. I think people are becoming a little less materialistic in America now. One of the things—the enemies thought we were totally materialistic, obviously. They made a terrible miscalculation about the will and might of the United States and our drive. But I think people are beginning to realize that there's more to life than just materialism. You're a living example. Thank you.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Well, thanks, Ira. Let me ask you, what's the attitude? Give us a read. How is the—at Pennsylvania, are the kids involved, interested, asking for ways to help, kind of complacent? Give us a feel.

Mr. Harkavy. Not complacent at all. In fact, young people come to Penn desiring to serve, and when they come to the university, they want to put their ideals into practice. So I think this is an extraordinary generation. We have to only give them the opportunity, and they will seize that opportunity in ways we could only dream of. So this generation, both pre-college and in college, is a generation of extraordinary talent, idealism, and ability. And they want to serve. And I'm convinced they'll respond to your call.

The President. Thanks, Ira. Thanks. I appreciate you. Thanks for coming.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. I told Stephanie earlier that reading is the new civil right. And so far you've heard three speakers talk about reading. And we've got to get it right. We've got to get this right. We've got, actually, a pretty good piece of legislation—a really good piece of legislation, education legislation, a core component of which is to make sure that children learn how to read, using,

as Ira mentioned, a science of reading and what works.

And so thank you very much for focusing on that. You're what I call a soldier in the armies of compassion. And it's pretty extraordinary that a social entrepreneur be so young. But I want to thank you for that very much. I bet one of the things you've learned is that by serving as an example, you stimulate others to serve as well.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Thank you, Stephanie. Good luck—love your spirit. Thank you.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. I appreciate you, Captain. Thank you very much. I'm glad the captain is here as a citizen soldier, because it serves as a reminder that we've got people who make the ultimate sacrifice, people who wear the uniform. We really are fighting for freedom and fighting for lasting peace. That's the key for, particularly, young Americans to understand, that this Nation didn't ask for war but that we'll be strong when it comes to the defense of values that we hold dear. And one of them is freedom of religion—or freedom to vote or freedom to express your opinion. We're fighting evil people who cannot stand freedom.

And sacrifice is beginning to become apparent to many who never thought they would have to sacrifice. There is a new culture evolving in the country—to the benefit, I might add, of future generations—and that is that there's something greater than yourself in life, and it's worth serving. Part of service is in the military; part of service is on the streets; part of service is loving people.

And so I want to thank you for coming, Captain, and thank you for your service.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Well, I appreciate you, Elaine. Elaine's got an extraordinary spirit. She's like the Energizer Bunny when it comes to helping people—[*laughter*]—perpetual motion.

And first of all, let me mention something about the Peace Corps. If there are any people that are interested in spreading U.S. values around the world, the Peace Corps is a wonderful place to do so. You may share that—some of that with us, if you don't mind, just a little bit of your experience. Somebody may be watching that wonders if the Peace Corps is worthwhile.

Ms. Lander. The Peace Corps is worth every minute of it. I first decided I wanted to become a Peace Corps volunteer in third grade, when the motto was "Helping People Help Themselves." And when I graduated from college, I was fortunate; I got accepted to the Peace Corps quickly. And it was the most amazing 2 years of my life. And I tell people that all the time. You're making a call for 4,000 hours of volunteer service or 2 years. That's just a fraction of one's life span, and it's worth every minute.

The President. Our goal is to double the Peace Corps over 5 years. Our goal is as well to make sure we have the Peace Corps go to nations, particularly Muslim nations, that don't understand America. They don't understand our heart; they don't understand our compassion; they don't understand that we share the same values. I mean, listen, mom and dad love children in the Muslim world just like we do in America, and they've got to understand that, that there are some common beliefs that we share that will make—and the Peace Corps is a good way to spread that message.

Ms. Lander. Yes, I think some of us would like to say, for a lot of people, the world is a terribly big place, but for those of us that have served in the Peace Corps, it's a large planet made up of communities.

The President. That's right. The other thing is, is that Elaine is involved in kind of a first-responders program here in Philadelphia. We want people to become involved in the first-responders initiative. We have a Citizen Corps set up just for that, that really will help communities deal with disaster if disaster were ever to come. And we're doing everything, by the way, to prevent disaster from ever happening again. But should they hit us again, we need to have a response plan. And Elaine is very much involved in that as part of her duties with the Red Cross.

And I want to thank you for that as well. Thanks. Thanks for your love and your service.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Well, I appreciate that. Thanks, Dick. I thank you for your service to the country. It's never too late, is it?

First of all, you need to know that here in southeast Pennsylvania, because of the United Way, there's what's called a Volunteer Center. Chris, I want to thank you for running that. It's a place to help people find a way to volunteer. If you're interested, USA Freedom Corps doesn't suit your needs, the United Way Volunteer Center is also a good opportunity. They help train; they show you the way; they give you opportunities to—they show you where the needs are. And I want to thank you for that.

As well, we've got people here from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Steve Goldsmith, my friend, who's the former mayor of Indianapolis, is with us, as well as Les Lenkowsky. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you being here.

I hope what America gets to see as a result of this dialog is the fact that there are people in our country who understand that a culture of responsibility requires responsible behavior. It requires people not only to take care of their own by loving your children but also requires people to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves.

We have living examples of people on the leading edge of ushering in a culture of personal responsibility. I want to thank you all for sharing your message with us. It is—Philadelphia is better off as a result of your daily concern for your fellow human beings.

America is strong. We won't relent. We won't relent in the face of evil. And we will win. We will win. We'll win hearts and souls and minds. This country has got a fabulous future ahead of it, because the strength of the country is not in the halls of our Government but in the hearts and souls of our citizens.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:14 a.m. in the Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. In his remarks, he referred to Christine James-Brown, president and chief executive officer, United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, who moderated the discussion; Mayor John F. Street of Philadelphia; Mike Fisher, State attorney general of Pennsylvania; Gloria Guard, executive director, People's Emergency Center; and Stephen Goldsmith, member, Board of Directors, and Leslie Lenkowsky, Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service. Discussion participants were: Jennifer Cardy, AmeriCorps member; Ira Harkavy, associate vice president and director, Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania; high school senior Stephanie Oliver, who founded a children's literacy project at age 13; Capt. Jeff Kyburz, USAR; Elaine Lander, nurse, American Red Cross disaster response team; and Richard Clemons, AmeriCorps*VISTA member.

Remarks Honoring NCAA Champion Teams

March 12, 2002

Thank you all. Welcome. I like a good, short introduction. [*Laughter*] Thanks, Chris, for being here. I appreciate you hosting this, and welcome to the White House.

We have never had so many champions inside a room in the White House history, so thank you for making history, not only on—when you won the championship but being here as well. It's such an honor to welcome you here. It's an unimaginable honor to live here and to share this with people from all around the country. This is the people's house. This isn't our house; it's the people's house. And we're glad you're able to see it, and we're glad to herald champs as well.

I love to talk about champs. I love to talk about winning and setting high standards and working hard to achieve those standards. And that's exactly what you all have done, and I really want to congratulate you.

I want to welcome Elaine Chao, who is the Secretary of Labor, who is here, and Mel Martinez, who is the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. They have got something at stake: One's from Kentucky; one's from Florida. [*Laughter*] Jim Bunning is here, who knows something about athletics himself—he's a Hall of Fame pitcher—fine United States Senator from Kentucky; Jim Kolbe from Arizona; and Ernie Fletcher

from Kentucky as well. Thank you all for coming.

I saw Donna Shalala the other day at an event, and she must have a pretty good touch. [*Laughter*] After all, she becomes the president, and they win two national championships. Congratulations. Welcome back to the White House, and thank you for your service to the country. I appreciate Peter Likins, from the University of Arizona, for being here as well. Where's Peter? Thank you for coming, sir. I appreciate you being here. Father Paul Locatelli, from Santa Clara University, thank you, Father, for coming. I appreciate you being here. And of course, we've mentioned the coaches and the captains.

Before we go have our picture taken, I do want to say a few comments about our country. First of all, we defend freedom, and we'll continue to defend freedom to make sure that our children and grandchildren can grow up in a free world. You know, the enemy, when they hit America, didn't understand us. They didn't think we were a nation that could conceivably sacrifice for something greater than ourself, that we were soft, that we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic that we wouldn't defend anything we believed in. My, were they wrong. They missed—they just were reading the wrong magazine or watching the wrong Springer show. [*Laughter*]

They didn't understand America, and what they really don't understand is the nature of people who care about our society. They don't realize we're a compassionate nation.

And so I hope the champs who are here understand that with being a champion, you have a responsibility, a responsibility to uphold an example to others. You probably know this; I don't need to tell you this. But when you're playing baseball at the University of Miami, there's some little eighth-grade kid watching your every move, trying to figure out, you know, how cool he can be. If you're a star volleyball player at Stanford, somebody's watching; or from Santa Clara, there's some young child, young girl watching what it means to be a champ. And you have a responsibility as a champ to make the right choices and to set a clear example for others.

And we all have a responsibility to love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourself. We've got a strong military here in America, and that's good. That's how we're going to make sure our homeland is secure, by using our military. But we can all stand up in the face of this evil, collectively stand up, by doing something good in our society. I hope the athletes understand that. I hope you understand that you have a responsibility as a champ not only to set the right example but to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. You have a fantastic opportunity as champs to help define the character of America, to help say loud and clear that we will not tolerate evil and that we will—the collective good will of our country, the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness will define the very nature of America, that we will stand strong against evil by the collective goodness of our country.

You've shown that on the playing fields, and I want to congratulate you for being strong and great athletes. Show it on the field of life, as well, and America will be a better place.

It's such an honor to welcome you here. May God bless your futures, may God bless your talent, and may God bless America. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:42 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chris Fowler, reporter, ESPN, who introduced the President; Donna E. Shalala, president, University of Miami; Peter Likins, president, University of Arizona; and Father Paul Locatelli, president, Santa Clara University. The President honored the University of Arizona women's softball team, the University of Kentucky cheerleaders, the University of Miami baseball and football teams, the University of North Carolina men's soccer team, the Santa Clara University women's soccer team, and the Stanford University women's volleyball team. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Border Security Legislation

March 12, 2002

I applaud the House for working in a bipartisan fashion to pass legislation that strengthens border security while recognizing the importance of keeping families together and making America a more welcoming society. Many immigrants who are otherwise eligible to become legal residents will be forced to leave the United States and their families unless a temporary extension is granted. The Senate should act quickly to pass this legislation and send it to my desk for signature.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released this statement in Spanish.

Memorandum on Inventory of Federal Service Opportunities and Regulatory Barriers to Community and Other Service Activities

March 12, 2002

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Inventory of Federal Service Opportunities and Regulatory Barriers to Community and Other Service Activities

I established by Executive Order 13254 of January 29, 2002, the USA Freedom Corps in order to encourage service and volunteerism in America. Building on our Nation's rich tradition of volunteer service, my Administration's policy is to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility by promoting, expanding, and enhancing service opportunities for all Americans. Consistent with that policy, I hereby direct you to take the following steps:

- Within 30 days, identify and report to the Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps Office on the service opportunities both for your employees and for the public at large that are sponsored or administered by your department or agency. Such report shall also describe the extent to which this information is available to the public on your department or agency's website.
- Within 30 days, identify and report to the Assistant to the President and Director of the USA Freedom Corps Office on Federal regulatory and programmatic barriers in your department or agency to community and other service by Americans. Such report shall also include recommendations as to how to modify or repeal such barriers in order to enhance service opportunities.

This directive shall be construed consistent with Executive Order 13254.

George W. Bush

Remarks at a Keep Our Majority Political Action Committee Reception

March 12, 2002

The President. Thank you all. I am here because I am most interested in making sure Denny Hastert remains Speaker of the House. It's in the Nation's interest that he remain Speaker of the House.

And there's a reason why. First, he's a high quality person. I don't know if you all know this, but he was a wrestling coach at one time. He's the perfect Speaker. [*Laughter*]

He's a steady man; he's a joy to work with. I trust him; I trust his judgment. I really appreciate his can-do spirit. Denny's the kind of person that comes in the Oval Office and asks the question, "How can we get something done on behalf of the American people?" And I appreciate that attitude a lot. You know, some folks up here are looking for a fight. Denny's a guy looking for results.

And the record speaks pretty clearly. I remember first coming up here, and I told Denny that we've got to work together to get a tax cut for the American people. He said, "You bet." And as a result of his leadership, we got a tax cut for the American people, right at the right time.

History will judge that the tax cut was timely. It's a pretty simple theory, but one that works, and that is if the economy is slowing down, like it was, if you give people their own money back, that creates demand. And

demand creates production, and production equals jobs. And as a result of Denny's leadership, we passed important economic relief, called tax relief.

Some of them up here must be reading a different economics textbook than Denny and I are. There's a—for a while, they were talking about either stopping the tax relief, which I view as a tax increase. You never raise taxes in the midst of a recession, and Denny understands that, and I appreciate that.

We worked together on a really good education bill. We had some photos taken earlier, and one lady came through, said she was a teacher. I want to tell her and I want to tell everybody else that education has got to be one of the top domestic priorities, regardless of political party. And as a result of working closely together, we passed a substantial piece of education reform.

It is really good legislation. It is one that sets high standards, that refuses to accept mediocrity for any child, that challenges a system that quits on children early and just moves them through. That's not going to happen in America anymore, as far as we're concerned. We say we'll fund education; we'll focus money on where the needs are most, particularly amongst poor—the poor. But we expect everybody to learn. Not only do we expect everybody to learn, we firmly believe everybody can learn.

We've got a great reading initiative as a part of this bill. Denny understands what I know, that reading is the new civil right. If you can't read, you're going to be left behind. And we were deadly serious when we said no child will be left behind in America, and it starts with making sure every child learns to read.

We're on a mission here in America to achieve that objective. It, of course, trusts the local people—I mean, lest you think I forgot where I came from. I trust the Governors and the local school districts more than I trust people in Washington, DC, about educating children. So not only did we set high standards, we passed power out of Washington, DC. One size doesn't fit all. And if we expect to achieve excellence, we've got to trust local folks. And that's exactly the spirit of this bill.

As well, Denny understands the need to stimulate our economy even further. On the one hand, we want to make sure those whose lives were adversely affected on 9/11 receive help. But people in America don't want an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck. And therefore, as a result of his steadfast leadership, I had the honor of signing a economic stimulus package last Saturday in the Rose Garden, a package that not only helps workers but provides incentive for people to develop plant and equipment, which means jobs.

In other words, Denny understood what I understood: Jobs is the center of any good economic development plan. And Mr. Speaker, thanks to your steadfast leadership, I was able to sign a very good economic stimulus bill.

He's the kind of fella that doesn't say much, which is unusual here in Washington. [*Laughter*] He lets results speak for themselves.

History is going to show as well, we had a substantial legislative session in the House. As you know, as a result of the Speaker's leadership, we took a giant stride for improving our energy situation here in America. On the one hand, we encouraged more conservation and the development and modernization of our infrastructure, but on the other hand, we understand we've got to find more oil and gas in an environmentally friendly way here in America. The energy bill that passed the House was a really good piece of legislation. It is in our national security that we become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil, and Denny Hastert understood that.

As well, we passed a good trade bill out of the House of Representatives. It's a bill that has got confidence in the productivity of American farmers and American workers. It says that if you're confident, you open up markets. If you're confident, you encourage trade as opposed to protectionism. And thanks to the Speaker's leadership, we got trade promotion authority out of the House of Representatives.

Thanks to the Speaker's leadership, we're focusing on research and development and at the same time send a firm, clear message: We will ban cloning in America.

Thanks to the Speaker's leadership, we passed a Faith-Based Initiative which recognizes that there are some in our society who hurt—badly hurt—and that the next step of good welfare reform is to rally the armies of compassion all across America, to encourage faith-based programs to help people who have got significant needs in our society.

The last four pieces of legislation—energy, trade, cloning, as well as Faith-Based Initiative—passed the House, but they haven't gotten out of the Senate yet. Denny Hastert is a can-do leader that focuses not on the political parties but focuses on what's best for America. And it's good for our country that he's the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

I submitted a budget that recognizes our Nation is in a long struggle for freedom, and Denny understands that. He understands that my most important job—and as a significant leader, his most important job—is to make sure the enemy doesn't attack America again, that our most important job is to protect innocent life here in our country.

We've got a great homeland defense strategy that the Speaker and I have been working on, as well as working with Tom Ridge. But I want to assure you all that I know this fact, that the best way to secure the homeland is to find the enemy, wherever he tries to hide, and bring them to justice. And that's precisely what we're going to do here in America.

I gave a speech the other day, and I talked about the fact that we've accomplished the first stage of our mission, and that is, we liberated a country from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. We unleashed our mighty military, along with coalition forces, and we routed out the Taliban. I can't tell you how proud I am—I'm so proud of our military, men and women who are making huge sacrifices on behalf of freedom and that have not let us down.

We're now in another phase of this war, which is to deny the enemy, the Al Qaida and any other affiliated terrorist group, any sanctuary anywhere in the world. We want them on the run. We want them to be treated like the international terrorists and international criminals that they are. And therefore, our policy not only continues to focus on Afghanistan; we have just finished—or are in the midst of wrapping up a significant battle in Afghanistan where we have achieved a mighty victory.

We've lost life, and for those lives we mourn. And I hope those family members understand that the lost life was for a giant cause, and that is the freedoms we hold dear.

But we're not through in Afghanistan. Any time we find Al Qaida or like-minded killers bunched up, we're going to get them. We'll be steady; we'll be relentless; we'll be resolved; we will not blink. I will continue to lead this coalition. History has called us into action, and we're not going to miss this opportunity to make the world more peaceful.

And so whether it be in Afghanistan or in Yemen or in the Philippines, perhaps in Georgia, this mighty Nation will use our resources to deny sanctuary to anybody who thinks they can harm the United States of America or our friends or our allies.

And there is a large cause at hand, as well, and Denny understands this. This great Nation must never allow the world's most dangerous regimes to develop the world's most dangerous weapons and hook up with terrorist organizations.

Audience member. That's right.

The President. As you know, I made that pretty clear to the world. I will continue to make that clear. This Nation must speak clearly and strongly for universal values. We must never waver in our love for freedom. We must never waver in our disdain for those who use murder to achieve political ends. And so long as I'm the President, I promise you I will be steadfast and strong in the face of evil.

And the good thing about America is that the Nation understands this. We're a united nation. We're bound together, regardless of political party or where we live, by this common love for freedom. And America understands the stakes, and they recognize that history has called us into action. And for that I am most grateful to the American people. It is such an honor to be the President of such a great land.

As well, American people are beginning to show the world that we're a compassionate nation as well, that we're a kind and decent

people. We're tough on the battlefield; we're really tough. But also at home, neighbors love neighbors more than ever before. And I like to remind my fellow citizens that if you're interested in joining the war against terror, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. You see, it's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency that define our country and allow me to say that good stands squarely in the face of evil.

We're a good people. We're a strong people. We're a resolute people. And we're a people who will not be deterred in our desire to not only protect our homeland but to make the world more peaceful for generations to come.

It is an honor to be here with a great man, the Speaker of the House, and it is an honor to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:45 p.m. in Constitution Hall.

Remarks at a Shamrock Presentation Ceremony With Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland

March 13, 2002

Taoiseach, thank you very much. Laura and I welcome you and Ms. Larkin here to the White House. I want to thank you for this fine gift to the people of the United States. I'm honored to accept it as a symbol of the strong and faithful friendship between our two nations.

Ireland has given many gifts to America throughout our history. This very house was designed by an Irish immigrant, based on your own Leinster House in Dublin, and has since been occupied by more than a dozen Presidents of Irish descent. One of them, President John Kennedy, said on a visit to Ireland, "When my great grandfather left here to become a copper in east Boston, he carried nothing with him except two things, a strong religious faith and a strong desire for liberty." The Kennedys were among millions of immigrants who came to America with that same faith and the same love of freedom.

As much as any other immigrant group, Irish-Americans have shaped this country for the better. They have fought in our wars, like the five Sullivan brothers who died together on one day on one ship in World War II. They helped settle our territories, like David Crockett. They helped build our cities and to this day still embody the spirit of public service. When the rollcall—when the roll was called of the policemen and firemen and emergency workers who died on September the 11th, it included many names like Donnelly and Duffy and Kelly and Sullivan.

Tens of millions of Americans trace their lineage to Ireland, and so many came here in times of grief for a country they left behind. Today, we are glad to see a strong and free and rising Ireland with so much to offer its people and the entire world. The ties of family and values are adding ties of diplomacy and trade, with commerce between our nations quadrupling in just the last 7 years.

September the 11th has reinforced these bonds of friendship. Ireland is a valued member of the international coalition against terrorism. Ireland has allowed American military planes to use its airports and has helped to rebuild Afghanistan. We appreciate your help in a just and vital cause.

America stands with you in another cause, bringing security and stability to the people of Northern Ireland. We've seen great progress since we gathered here a year ago. Many challenges lie ahead, but I am so optimistic that by working together we can meet these challenges and help create a lasting peace.

This morning we remember a good man who spread a gospel of peace. The greatest of Irish names, Saint Patrick, was brought to Ireland a slave and died there a saint. His courage and kindness helped to shape a great and noble culture. Americans are proud of our Irish influence, and we're grateful to our Irish friends.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:23 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Celia Larkin, who accompanied Prime Minister Ahern.

Remarks at a Reception for Saint Patrick's Day

March 13, 2000

Thank you very much. A hundred thousand welcomes to you all. I probably am not going to try to say that in Gaelic. [*Laughter*] But I have learned how to pronounce *Taoiseach*. [*Laughter*] Welcome back to the White House. It's good to be able to welcome a friend into your home. The *Taoiseach* is a friend.

I want to thank John Reid, the Secretary of State of Northern Ireland, for being here. John, how are you? He's on his honeymoon. [*Laughter*] Sorry to disrupt your honeymoon, but it's for a noble cause. [*Laughter*] David Trimble, the honorable David Trimble, First Minister of Northern Ireland—David, thank you for coming. Honorable Mark Durkan, appreciate you being here. I want to thank all the other leaders from Northern Ireland. I want to thank the ambassadors who are here. Members of Congress, always a pleasure to welcome you to the White House.

I want to thank you all for joining us in celebrating the memory of Saint Patrick. His generosity and love of liberty shaped Ireland. Through generations of immigrants, those values have helped shape America, and we are a better country for it.

Today we also celebrate our common bonds and common purpose. From America's earliest days, our Nation has profited from the contributions of the men and women of Ireland. In fact, over two centuries ago, it was an Irish boy born in County Wexford, John Barry, who made vital contributions to America's independence and is recognized as one of the founders of the Department of Navy.

Today, Ireland is supporting the coalition against terrorism, and we're proud of your support. You've frozen the assets of terrorists. You're helping respond to terror by leading the Security Council of the United Nations.

For tens of millions of Americans, our ties with Ireland are family ties, and this number includes some very distinguished Americans. We're honored today to have with us Irish-American firefighters who served our Nation so heroically on September the 11th. They represent the best of the United States when they displayed enormous strength and determination in the face of overwhelming tragedy. And I want to thank you all for coming. And I want to tell you what I told you before: We remember your colleagues. We will not forget your colleagues who gave their lives trying to save the lives of others. Welcome to the White House.

The people of Northern Ireland know the threat of terror. They know the value of peace. America is encouraged with the great strides that have been made in implementing the Good Friday Agreement. We see progress in the daily business of the Northern Ireland Assembly, in the new class of police recruits drawn from all communities in Northern Ireland, in the first act of decommissioning taken last fall, and in the North/South Ministerial Council, which is promoting cooperation across the border in agriculture and transportation and other areas.

The good citizens of Northern Ireland and the leaders here today have demonstrated a fierce determination: The next generation must not grow up amid The Troubles. For all communities in Northern Ireland, there's only one future, and it must be a future of peace. Peacemaking can be hard work, like planting in hard soil, and as the Irish proverb tells us, "You'll never plough a field by turning it over in your mind."

Important work remains, and the United States stands ready to do its part. As we gather here today to celebrate an old friendship and new hopes, let me open this reception with a blessing: May the Irish hills caress you; may her lakes and rivers bless you; may the luck of the Irish enfold you; may the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.

God bless Ireland, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:14 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland; and Deputy First Minister Mark Durkan, Northern Ireland Assembly.

The President's News Conference

March 13, 2002

The President. Good afternoon. Tomorrow the Senate Judiciary Committee will vote

on the nomination of Charles Pickering to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Judge Pickering is a respected and well-qualified nominee who was unanimously confirmed 12 years ago to the district bench. His nomination deserves a full vote, a vote in a full Senate. I strongly urge his confirmation.

While tomorrow's vote is about one man, a much larger principle is also at stake. Under our Constitution, the President has the right and responsibility to nominate qualified judges, and the legislative branch has the responsibility to vote on them in a fair and timely manner. This process determines the quality of justice in America, and it demands that both the President and Senate act with care and integrity, with wisdom and deep respect for the Constitution. Unfortunately, we are seeing a disturbing pattern where, too often, judicial confirmations are being turned into ideological battles that delay justice and hurt our democracy.

We now face a situation in which a handful of United States Senators on one committee have made it clear that they will block nominees, even highly qualified, well-respected nominees, who do not share the Senators' view of the bench, of the Federal courts. They seek to undermine the nominations of candidates who agree with my philosophy that judges should interpret the law, not try to make law from the bench. And because these Senators fear the outcome of a fair vote in the full Senate, they're using tactics of delay.

As a result, America is facing a vacancy crisis in the Federal judiciary. Working with both Republicans and Democrats, I have nominated 92 highly qualified, highly respected individuals to serve as Federal judges. These are men and women who will respect and follow the law. Yet the Senate has confirmed only 40 of these 92 nominees, and only 7 of the 29 nominees to the circuit courts, the courts of last resort in a vast majority of cases.

This is unacceptable. It is a bad record for the Senate. The Senate has an obligation to provide fair hearings and prompt votes to all nominees, no matter who controls the Senate or who controls the White House. By failing to allow full Senate votes on judicial nominees, a few Senators are standing in the way of justice. This is wrong, and the American people deserve better.

I will now be glad to answer a few questions, starting with Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. You are Fournier, aren't you?

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. I'm looking at my chart here. [*Laughter*] Yes.

Nuclear Posture Review

Q. The Pentagon is calling for the development of low-yield nuclear weapons that could be used against China, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Russia, and Syria. Can you explain why the United States is considering this new policy, and how it might figure into the war on terrorism?

The President. I presume you're referring to the nuclear review that was recently in the press. Well, first of all, the nuclear review is not new. It's gone on for previous administrations. Secondly, the reason we have a nuclear arsenal that I hope is modern, upgraded, and can work, is to deter any attack on America. The reason one has a nuclear arsenal is to serve as a deterrence.

Secondly, ours is an administration that's committed to reducing the amount of warheads, and we're in consultations now with the Russians on such a—on this matter. We've both agreed to reduce our warheads down to 1,700 to 2,200. I talked with Sergey Ivanov yesterday, the Minister of Defense from Russia, on this very subject.

I think one of the interesting points that we need to develop and fully explore is how best to verify what's taking place, to make sure that there's confidence in both countries. But I'm committed to reducing the amount of nuclear weaponry and reducing the number of nuclear warheads. I think it's the right policy for America, and I know we can continue to do so and still keep a deterrence.

Q. Why a policy, though, that might go after a country like Libya or Syria?

The President. First of all, we've got all options on the table, because we want to make it very clear to nations that you will

not threaten the United States or use weapons of mass destruction against us or our allies or friends.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Do you agree with Kofi Annan that Israel must end the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands? And how is the Israeli offensive going to complicate General Zinni's mission?

The President. Well, first of all, it is important to create conditions for peace in the Middle East. It's important for both sides to work hard to create the conditions of a potential settlement. Now, our Government has provided a security plan that has been agreed to by both the Israelis and the Palestinians, called the Tenet plan. And George Mitchell did good work providing a pathway for a political settlement, once conditions warrant it.

Frankly, it's not helpful, what the Israelis have recently done, in order to create conditions for peace. I understand someone trying to defend themselves and to fight terror. But the recent actions aren't helpful. And so Zinni's job is to go over there and work to get conditions such that we can get into Tenet. And he's got a lot of work to do, but if I didn't think he could make progress, I wouldn't have asked him to go.

During the announcement of the Zinni mission, I said there was—we had a lot of phone conversations with people in the Middle East which led us to believe that there is a chance to create—to get into Tenet or at least create the conditions to get into Tenet. And I've taken that chance, and it's the right course of action at this point, Steve.

Yes, John [John Roberts, CBS News].

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Q. Mr. President, let me look at what happened Monday with the INS visa approvals for Atta and Al-Shehhi and ask the requisite three-part question. Let me ask you, first of all, how high did the hair on the back of your neck rise when you heard about that? How can the American people have any faith in the credibility of the INS in its antiterrorist efforts? And what can you do, both immediately and for the long term, to assure nothing like that ever happens again?

The President. Well, it got my attention this morning when I read about that. I was stunned and not happy. Let me put it another way: I was plenty hot, and I made that clear to people in my administration. I don't know if the Attorney General has acted yet today or not. I haven't seen the wire story, but—he has. He got the message, and so should the INS.

The INS needs to be reformed, and it's one of the reasons why I called for the separation of the paperwork side of the INS from the enforcement side. And obviously, the paperwork side needs a lot of work. It's inexcusable. So we've got to reform the INS, and we've got to push hard to do so. This is an interesting wake-up call for those who run the INS. We are modernizing our system, John, and it needs to be modernized, so we know who's coming in and who's going out and why they're here.

Q. But what does this say, sir, about the credibility of the INS in its antiterrorism efforts?

The President. Well, it says they've got a lot of work to do. It says that the information system is antiquated. And having said that, they are—they got the message, and hopefully, they'll reform as quickly as possible. But yes, it got my attention in a negative way.

Catholic Church

Q. Mr. President, there's a growing crisis in the Catholic Church right now, involving pedophilia. And the crisis is exploding in Boston, under the watch of Cardinal Law, who you know. Do you think the archdiocese there is acting swiftly enough to deal with the issue of pedophilia among the ranks of priests?

The President. Well, I know many in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church; I know them to be men of integrity and decency. They're honorable people. I was just with Cardinal Egan today. And I'm confident the church will clean up its business and do the right thing. As to the timing, I haven't, frankly—I'm not exactly aware of the—how fast or how not fast they're moving. I just can tell you I trust the leadership of the church.

Q. Do you think Cardinal Law should resign?

The President. That's up to the church. I know Cardinal Law to be a man of integrity. I respect him a lot.

Iraq

Q. Vice President Cheney is on the road now trying to build support for possible action against Iraq. If you don't get that, down the road you decide you want to take action, would you take action against Iraq unilaterally?

The President. One of the things I've said to our friends is that we will consult, that we will share our views of how to make the world more safe. In regards to Iraq, we're doing just that. Every world leader that comes to see me, I explain our concerns about a nation which is not conforming to agreements that it made in the past, a nation which has gassed her people in the past, a nation which has weapons of mass destruction and apparently is not afraid to use them.

And so one of the—what the Vice President is doing is he's reminding people about this danger and that we need to work in concert to confront this danger. Again, all options are on the table, and—but one thing I will not allow is a nation such as Iraq to threaten our very future by developing weapons of mass destruction. They've agreed not to have those weapons; they ought to conform to their agreement, comply with their agreement.

Yes, John [John Cochran, ABC News].

Q. It seems to me—you seem to be saying, yes, you would consult with the allies and others, including in the Mideast, but if you had to, you'd go ahead and take action yourself.

The President. Well, you're answering the question for me. If I can remember the exact words, I'll say it exactly the way I said it before. We are going to consult. I am deeply concerned about Iraq, and so should the American people be concerned about Iraq, and so should people who love freedom be concerned about Iraq.

This is a nation run by a man who is willing to kill his own people by using chemical weapons, a man who won't let inspectors into the country, a man who's obviously got something to hide. And he is a problem, and we're going to deal with him. But the first stage is to consult with our allies and friends, and that's exactly what we're doing.

Everybody here on the front row? John [John Dickerson, Time]?

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, on the question of Iraq, how does the increased violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians affect what Vice President Cheney is trying to do and affect the case you're trying to make with our Arab allies for a regime change or just unconditional inspections?

The President. Well, I understand that the unrest in the Middle East creates unrest throughout the region, more so now than ever in the past. But we're concerned about the Middle East, John, because it's affecting the lives of the Palestinians and our friends the Israelis. I mean, it's a terrible period of time when a lot of people are losing their lives, needlessly losing life. And terrorists are holding a potential peace process hostage.

And so while I understand the linkage, for us the policy stands on its own. The need for us to be involved in the Middle East is to help save lives. And we're going to stay involved in the Middle East and, at the same time, continue to talk about Iraq and Iran and other nations and continue to wage a war on terror, which is exactly what we're doing.

I want to reiterate what I said the other day. Our policy is to deny sanctuary to terrorists anyplace in the world, and we will be very actively—in doing that.

Q. But on the question of the Palestinians, Sharon has said that he shares your concern for those not involved in terror. Do you still think that's the case?

The President. I do. But unlike our war against Al Qaida, there is a series of agreements in place that will lead to peace. And therefore, we're going to work hard to see if we can't, as they say, get into Tenet and eventually Mitchell. I do—I certainly hope that Prime Minister Sharon is concerned about the loss of innocent life. We certainly—I certainly am. It breaks my heart and I know it breaks the hearts of a lot of people around the world to see young children lose their life as a result of violence, young children on both sides of this issue.

This is an issue that's consuming a lot of the time of my administration. And we have an obligation to continue to work for peace in the region, and we will—we will. The two are not mutually exclusive, however.

Yes.

Scope of the War on Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, in your speeches now you rarely talk or mention Usama bin Laden. Why is that? Also, can you tell the American people if you have any more information, if you know if he is dead or alive? Final part, deep in your heart, don't you truly believe that until you find out if he is dead or alive, you won't really eliminate the threat of——

The President. Well, deep in my heart, I know the man is on the run if he's alive at all. Who knows if he's hiding in some cave or not? We haven't heard from him in a long time. And the idea of focusing on one person is—really indicates to me people don't understand the scope of the mission.

Terror is bigger than one person. And he's just—he's a person who's now been marginalized. His network is—his host government has been destroyed. He's the ultimate parasite who found weakness, exploited it, and met his match. He is—as I've mentioned in my speeches, I do mention the fact that this is a fellow who is willing to commit youngsters to their death, and he himself tries to hide—if, in fact, he's hiding at all.

So I don't know where he is. You know, I just don't spend that much time on him, Kelly [Kelly Wallace, Cable News Network], to be honest with you. I'm more worried about making sure that our soldiers are well supplied, that the strategy is clear, that the coalition is strong, that when we find enemy bunched up like we did in Shahi-Kot Mountains, that the military has all the support it needs to go in and do the job, which they did.

And there will be other battles in Afghanistan. There's going to be other struggles like Shahi-Kot, and I'm just as confident about the outcome of those future battles as I was about Shahi-Kot, where our soldiers are performing brilliantly. We're tough; we're strong; they're well equipped. We have a good strategy. We are showing the world we know how to fight a guerrilla war with conventional means.

Q. But don't you believe that the threat that bin Laden posed won't truly be eliminated until he is found either dead or alive?

The President. Well, as I say, we haven't heard much from him. And I wouldn't necessarily say he's at the center of any command structure. And again, I don't know where he is. I—I'll repeat what I said. I truly am not that concerned about him. I know he is on the run. I was concerned about him when he had taken over a country. I was concerned about the fact that he was basically running Afghanistan and calling the shots for the Taliban.

But once we set out the policy and started executing the plan, he became—we shoved him out more and more on the margins. He has no place to train his Al Qaida killers anymore. And if we—excuse me for a minute—and if we find a training camp, we'll take care of it. Either we will, or our friends will. That's one of the things—part of the new phase that's becoming apparent to the American people is that we're working closely with other governments to deny sanctuary or training or a place to hide or a place to raise money.

And we've got more work to do. See, that's the thing the American people have got to understand, that we've only been at this 6 months. This is going to be a long struggle. I keep saying that; I don't know whether you all believe me or not. But time will show you that it's going to take a long time to achieve this objective. And I can assure you, I am not going to blink, and I'm not going to get tired, because I know what is at stake. And history has called us to action, and I am going to seize this moment for the good of the world, for peace in the world, and for freedom.

Mike Allen [Mike Allen, Washington Post]. I'm working my way back there, slowly but surely. Michael.

Executive-Legislative Branch Relationship

Q. Mr. President, a bipartisan group of lawmakers has asked Governor Ridge to testify about the administration's domestic homeland security efforts. Why has the

White House said that Governor Ridge will not testify?

The President. Well, he's not—he doesn't have to testify. He's a part of my staff, and that's part of the prerogative of the executive branch of Government, and we hold that very dear.

Q. Mr. President, that's another area, along with the war and the development of the energy policy——

The President. This wasn't a trick question, Mike—get me to say that and then kind of have a quick followup? But go ahead.

Q. No, sir. But that's an area where Congress has said—members of both parties have told us they're not getting enough information from the White House.

The President. Oh, Mike, Mike, Mike, we consult with Congress all the time. I've had meaningful breakfasts with the leadership in the House and the Senate. I break bread with both Republicans and Democrats right back here in the Oval Office and have a good, honest discussion about plans, objectives, what's taking place, what's not taking place. We have members of our Cabinet briefing. Condoleezza Rice is in touch with the Members of the Congress. We are in touch with—we understand the role of the Congress. We must justify budgets to Congress. And so I don't buy that, to be frank with you.

Q. Mr. President, given——

The President. Mike, this is the third. Two followups is a record. Keep trying.

Q. Given that you've not convinced everyone in your own party of that, to what degree are you trying to recalibrate the power between Congress and the Presidency?

The President. Mike, I'm just doing my job. We'll let all the kind of the legal historians figure all that out, you know.

First of all, I'm not going to let Congress erode the power of the executive branch. I have a duty to protect the executive branch from legislative encroachment. I mean, for example, when the GAO demands documents from us, we're not going to give them to them. These were privileged conversations. These were conversations when people come into our offices and brief us. Can you imagine having to give up every single transcript of what is advised me or the Vice President? Our advice wouldn't be good and honest and open.

And so I viewed that as an encroachment on the power of the executive branch. I have an obligation to make sure that the Presidency remains robust and the legislative branch doesn't end up running the executive branch.

On the other hand, there's plenty of consultation, Mike. I don't know what single Republican you're referring to. But if you'd give me the name afterwards, I'll be glad to have him over for another consultation, if you know what I mean. [*Laughter*]

David [David Sanger, New York Times].

Saudi Peace Initiative

Q. Mr. President, when you endorsed the Saudi plan on the Middle East, or the Saudi vision, it called, of course, for full normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab States. You've seen some backing away from that now by some other Arab countries and, in fact, by the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia. Can you imagine endorsing a plan that calls for anything other than full normalization, anything less than full normalization?

The President. Well, I think the thing—in order for there to be a plan that is acceptable to all parties, it must recognize the right of Israel to exist. And that's what I thought was very encouraging from the Saudi declaration. It was the first such declaration, if I'm not mistaken, David—you probably know that better than me—but that the Crown Prince said there ought to be a independent state but—that recognizes Israel. That's how I interpreted it—Israel's right to exist. And I think that's a very important declaration. That's why we seized on that. I have said the same thing myself, but it obviously didn't have nearly the same weight as the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia in saying that.

Q. Normalization means something a little deeper than that.

The President. Well, but first of all, there's nothing more deep than recognizing Israel's right to exist. That's the most deep thought of all. After all, there are some skeptics who think that nations in that part of the world don't want Israel to exist. The first and most important qualification, it seems like to me, for there to be peace is for people

in the region to recognize Israel's right to exist. And therefore, policies ought to follow along those lines. I can't think of anything more deep than that right, that ultimate and final security.

And when the Crown Prince indicated that was on his mind, we embraced that, strongly embraced that.

Go ahead.

Nature of the War on Terrorism

Q. I was about to say, just a moment ago, you said that many of your allies are joining you in the war on terrorism. You do have a number of countries right now that seem to be right in the middle—Indonesia, Somalia—places that you've been worried about but that have not asked for our training, our help. Would you consider going into a country that did not seek your aid?

The President. Well, that's one of those pretty cleverly worded hypotheticals. Let me just put it to you this way, David: We will take actions necessary to protect American people, and I'm going to leave it at that. That's a good question, however.

Yes?

Russia-U.S. Nuclear Agreements

Q. Mr. President, back to nuclear issues, the Russian Defense Minister expressed the hope today that agreements on the new strategic framework could be signed by the time of your visit next May in Moscow. Is it realistic? And second, are you ready to sign documents in a treaty form? And third, have you made progress on the issue of destroying versus storing nuclear warheads?

The President. Well, I share the Minister's optimism that we can get something done by May. I'd like to sign a document in Russia, when I'm there. I think it would be a good thing. And therefore, we've got to make sure that those who are interested in making sure that the cold war relationship continues on are kind of pushed in the background. In other words, we've got to work hard to establish a new relationship.

I also agree with President Putin that there needs to be a document that outlives both of us. What form that comes in, we will discuss. There is a—I think David asked me this question, as a matter of fact, back in Slovenia, if I'm not mistaken, about storage versus destruction. We'd be glad to talk to the Russians about that. I think the most important thing, though, is verification, is to make sure that whatever decision is made, that there is open verification so as to develop a level of trust.

There is a constraint as well. I mean, the destruction of nuclear warheads requires a lot of work and a lot of detailed work, and that, in itself, is going to take time, and that's got to be a part of the equation as well.

But those are all issues we're discussing. I had a good—very good discussion with Sergey Ivanov yesterday. I'm confident that President Putin is interested in making a deal, coming up with a good arrangement that will codify a new relationship. The more Russia—the more we work with Russia, the better the world will be. And we've got a good, close relationship with them.

We've got a few sticking points. We've got an issue on chickens, for example, that some of you have followed. We made it pretty darn clear to them that I think we've probably got to get this chicken issue resolved and get those chickens moving from the United States into the Russian market. [*Laughter*] We laugh, but nevertheless it is a problem—that we must honor agreements. But I believe we're going to have great relations with Russia, and we're going to work hard to achieve them.

Yes, go ahead. You're next, Angle [Jim Angle, Fox News].

Debt Ceiling

Q. Mr. President, can I ask about the debt limit, sir? And specifically about the Treasury Secretary's plan to borrow cash from the Federal retirement funds, can you justify that to the American people, sir?

The President. I'm not going to comment on the Secretary of Treasury's plan. I'll tell you what I think ought to happen. I think Congress ought to pass a clean bill that raises the debt ceiling, and I'll sign it. I think it's important. I hope we can get that kind of spirit out of Congress. If they do that, it will solve the problem. We don't need to be playing politics with the debt ceiling, particularly now that we're at war.

And we're working with the Congress on that. I've had some pretty good discussions with the leadership about the need to get a clean bill coming. And I hope they do. I hope they listen; I hope they respond.

Q. There are those who will say that borrowing from the Federal retirement funds is also a form of playing politics——

The President. Well, if the Congress passes the bill, we're fine. And we've got to get that done. It's their responsibility to get the debt ceiling raised. I hope they do it quickly and soon, and we're going to work with them to get it done.

Jim.

Nuclear Posture Review

Q. Mr. President, what do you make of the dust-up over the nuclear review? And have you made any decisions about its recommendations? In particular, what is your view about building smaller nuclear weapons, which some people believe would make them more likely to be used?

The President. Well, first of all, I view our nuclear arsenal as a deterrent, as a way to say to people that would harm America, "Don't do it." That's a deterrent, that there's a consequence. And the President must have all options available to make that deterrent have meaning. And that's how I view the review.

Q. But what is your thinking, sir, on smaller nuclear weapons, which some analysts believe would be a major departure and would make them more likely——

The President. My interest is—Jim, my interest is to reduce the threat of a nuclear war, is to reduce the number of nuclear warheads. I think we've got plenty of warheads to keep the peace. I'm interested in—and that's why I told President Putin and told the country, if need be, we'll just reduce unilaterally to a level commensurate * with keeping a deterrence and keeping the peace.

So I'm interested in having all—having an arsenal at my disposal or at the military's disposal that will keep the peace. We're a peaceful nation and moving along just right and just kind of having a time, and all of a sudden, we get attacked, and now we're at war, but we're at war to keep the peace.

And it's very important for people in America to understand that at least my attitude on this is that we're not out to seek revenge. Sure, we're after justice, but I also view this as a really good opportunity to create a lasting peace.

And so, therefore, the more firm we are and the more determined we are to take care of Al Qaida and deal with terrorism in all its forms, particularly that of global reach, that we have a very good chance of solving some difficult problems, including the Middle East or the subcontinent. But it's going to require a resolve and firmness from the United States of America.

One of the things I've learned in my discussions and at least listening to the echo chamber out there in the world is that if the United States were to waver, some in the world would take a nap when it comes to the war on terror. And we're just not going to let them do that. And that's why you hear me spend a lot of time talking to the American people—at least, I hope I'm talking to them, through you—about why this is going to take a long period of time and why I'm so determined to remain firm in my resolve. And—anyway.

Draft Registration/Military Readiness

Q. Mr. President, could I——

The President. Yes, sir? You asked the softest. [*Laughter*]

Q. I'd like to ask you about the public service component of your initiative as it——

The President. The what, now?

Q. The public service initiative of yours as it relates to the war, which you've just said again, that could go on for quite a while. As we all know, 18-year-old men in this country, when they turn 18, they're required to register with the draft, which is now dormant but could be activated again. At this time—and we're looking at sort of an unlimited situation with this war—should the country expect the same of women in this country?

The President. You mean in terms of the draft?

Q. Yes.

The President. Well, the country shouldn't expect there to be a draft. I know

* White House correction.

they're registering. But the volunteer army is working. Particularly when Congress passes my budget, it's going to make it more likely to work. There's been a pay raise, and then we'll have another pay raise. And the mission is clear; the training is good; the equipment is going to be robust. Congress needs to pass this budget.

So I don't worry about—and people shouldn't worry about a draft. We do have women in the military, and I'm proud of their service. And they're welcome in the military; they make a great addition to the military.

Q. You don't think——

The President. Pardon me?

Q. ——that the military will be stretched too thinly, as some people have feared?

The President. Ed [Ed Chen, Los Angeles Times], I don't think so. I think we're in pretty good shape right now. It's—there's no question we have obligations around the world, which we will keep. If you went to—did you go to Korea with us?

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. Well, there's a major obligation there of 37,000 troops, an obligation that is an important obligation, one that I know is important, and we will keep that obligation. But we've got ample manpower to meet our needs.

Plus, we've got a vast coalition of nations willing to lend their own manpower to the war. And as I mentioned the other day in my speech there on the South Lawn, 17 nations are involved in this first theater in Afghanistan. And we had Canadians and Danish and Germans and Australians—I'm probably going to leave somebody out—Brits, Special Forces troops on the ground, boots on the ground, as they say, willing to risk their lives in a dangerous phase of this war, and men going cave to cave, looking for killers. These people don't like to surrender; they don't surrender. But we've been able to count on foreign troops to help us.

And so, Ed, I think we're in good shape, I really do. And if not, we'll—I'll address the Nation, but I don't see any need to right now.

Mexico-U.S. Relations

Q. Will you take one on Mexico?

The President. *Si.*

Q. You are going to my country next week.

The President. *Es la verdad.*

Q. Besides what President Fox presented to you last year, you haven't acted in favor of the Mexican proposal by the President of Mexico. You haven't presented anything to Congress.

The President. Excuse me a second, what proposal are you talking about?

Q. The one the President Fox mentioned——

The President. In specific. I don't mean to interrupt you.

Q. The regularization of——

The President. Oh, the immigration issue?

Q. Yes, the immigration issue. So when are you going to present any concrete steps in that direction for Mexico?

The President. Well, first of all, we are working closely with Mexico. We've had many of our administration officials down there. Tom Ridge just came back; he had a very good dialog with President Fox. John Ashcroft has been very much involved with the Mexican Government. We have had a wide-ranging discussions as to how to make the border work better, how to make the border more secure for both countries. We've had a really good dialog.

Some of what needs to be done didn't require law. I'm glad you brought that up. We just got 245(i) passed in the House of Representatives. Hopefully, that will come out of the Senate quickly. That's a step toward—that's a good reform, is one that I support. I also cautioned President Fox at the time that there will be no blanket amnesty in America. I don't think the will of the American people is for blanket amnesty. I think he understands that.

And so, therefore, the thing we've got to do is figure out how to make sure willing employers are able to match up with willing employees. And so we'll work—we're making progress; 245(i) is good progress.

Yes.

Lieutenant Commander Michael Scott Speicher

Q. Mr. President, do you believe there is an American pilot from the Gulf War still alive in Iraq? And if so, how might that complicate any actions you consider——

The President. Well, let me just say this to you. I know that the man has got an MIA status, and it reminds me once again about the nature of Saddam Hussein if, in fact, he's alive. And therefore, it's just another part of my thinking about him, my—I guess, lack of respect is a good way to define it.

Q. Does it complicate any action you might take—you might consider taking against Iraq in the war against terror?

The President. Well, that's where we're—this is the old hypothetical again. And let me just put it this way: It doesn't change my opinion about him. Matter of fact, it reinforces the fact that anybody who would be so cold and heartless as to hold an American flyer for all this period of time without notification to his family just—I wouldn't put it past him, given the fact that he gassed his own people.

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Yes, ma'am?

Zimbabwe Elections/Nomination of Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

Q. Okay, thank you. Do you officially recognize the Zimbabwe elections? And what are your thoughts about Mugabe? And also on Pickering, what are your thoughts——

The President. Wait, whoa, whoa. [*Laughter*] Wait a minute. This is all over the lot. [*Laughter*] Wait a minute—all over the lot.

Q. Mr. President, when I get a chance with you, I have to take it.

The President. You talk about somebody taking the liberty of a——

Q. When I get a chance with you, I have to take it.

The President. I can see that. [*Laughter*] Go ahead, take it.

Q. Okay.

The President. Is this a six-part question?

Q. No, it's only three.

The President. Three, okay. [*Laughter*] Let me start writing them down. First one is Zimbabwe. Go ahead.

Q. Yes, and with Pickering——

The President. Pickering——

Q. What are your thoughts about many of your nominees who are opposed have issues with racial bias, including Pickering?

The President. Yes, okay. That's two.

Q. Okay.

The President. You're going to limit it to two? Thank you very much.

Q. Yes, you're welcome.

The President. That's a good break.

First on Pickering, Pickering has got a very strong record on civil rights. Just ask the people he lives with. I had the honor of meeting the attorney general of Mississippi, Moore. Attorney General Moore—fine Democrat, elected statewide in the State of Mississippi; a man who, I suspect, is a man who got elected because he cares deeply about the civil rights of his citizens—came up and sat in the Oval Office and said, Judge Pickering has had a fine record on civil rights and should be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. I hope the Senators hear that. I hope they listen to Moore or Al Gore's brother-in-law or the former Governor of Mississippi, Winters.

Zimbabwe. We do not recognize the outcome of the election because we think it's flawed. And we are dealing with—and we are dealing with our friends to figure out how to deal with this flawed election.

Q. What are the options then?

The President. Well, we're dealing with our friends right now to figure out how to deal with it.

Class Action Reform Legislation

Q. The House is voting on class action reform this evening. Given the current political atmosphere, do you want to enact new legal reforms into law this year? And if so, which ones are you going to——

The President. Well, here's the thing. I am for reducing the number of lawsuits in our society. I think everybody will have their day in court, but I think a society that is so kind of litigious-oriented is one that is bad for jobs, bad for the creation of jobs. And if any reform—I will support reforms which reduce lawsuits and at the same time provide—give people the opportunity to take their case to court.

Q. Are there any ones you want to pursue?

The President. Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News]. Super Stretch, Little Stretch. Regular Stretch. [*Laughter*]

Corporate Management Reform

Q. Last week you announced an ambitious set of changes to make it easier for the Government to crack down on corporate wrongdoing. Yet Republicans in Congress and your own SEC Chairman says, essentially, a lot more money than you proposed will be needed to do the job effectively. I'm talking about the——

The President. You're talking about when I called on the SEC to enact laws to make sure that corporate CEOs take responsibility for their books, make sure that when somebody says they've got X amount in liabilities, that X equals X and not X equals Y or something less than X. Yes, I strongly believe that, and the SEC needs to get after it. And I don't use the excuse of not enough money in the budget, frankly. I need to know the numbers, but we need action. And we need reasonable action, without causing a plethora of lawsuits.

Hutch [Ron Hutcheson, Knight Ridder].

Perspective on the War on Terrorism

Q. Thank you, sir. I wanted to ask about the second phase of the war. As a member of the Vietnam generation, do you worry as you send these military advisers all over the world, typically to chaotic places, that they may get involved in direct conflict and the situation could escalate? And are you prepared to do that?

The President. Interesting question. Hutch, let me tell you something, I believe this war is more akin to World War II than it is to Vietnam. This is a war in which we fight for the liberties and freedom of our country.

Secondly, I understand there's going to be loss of life and that people are going to—and the reason I bring that up is because for a while, at least for a period, it seemed to be that the definition of success in war was, nobody lost their life. Nobody grieves harder than I do when we lose a life. I feel responsible for sending the troops into harm's way. It breaks my heart when I see a mom sitting on the front row of a speech and she's weeping, openly weeping for the loss of her son. It's—it just—I'm not very good about concealing my emotions, but I strongly believe we're doing the right thing. And Hutch, the idea of denying sanctuary is vital to protect America. And we're going to be, obviously, judicious and wise about how we deploy troops.

I learned some good lessons from Vietnam. First, there must be a clear mission. Secondly, the politics ought to stay out of fighting a war. There was too much politics during the Vietnam war. There was too much concern in the White House about political standing. And I've got great confidence in General Tommy Franks and great confidence in how this war is being conducted. And I rely on Tommy, just like the Secretary of Defense relies upon Tommy and his judgment—whether or not we ought to deploy and how we ought to deploy.

Tommy knows the lessons of Vietnam just as well as I do. Both of us—he was a—he graduated from high school in '63, and you and I graduated in '64. We're of the same vintage. We paid attention to what was going on. And so—I think it was '64, wasn't it?

Q. No, sir.

The President. Oh. [*Laughter*] You're not that old. You're not that old.

I'll give you an interesting fact: I don't know if you all know this or not, speaking about Tommy, but Tommy Franks went to Midland Lee High School, class of '63. Laura Bush went to Midland Lee High School, class of '64. That's an interesting thing for the social columns. [*Laughter*] For those of you who allow for your news-gathering to slip into social items. [*Laughter*] Or social gossip, which sometimes happens; it doesn't happen that much.

Q. Did they know each other?

The President. No. [*Laughter*]

Elisabeth [Elisabeth Bumiller, New York Times]?

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Q. Mr. President, who do you hold responsible for the failure of the INS this week? I see the Attorney General said he was going to hold individuals responsible——

The President. Going to do—hold——

Q. Hold individuals responsible.

The President. Well, let's see what the Inspector General comes back with. But obviously, I named a good man to run it, Ziglar, and he's held accountable. His responsibility

is to reform the INS. Let's give him time to do so. He hasn't been there that long, but he now has got another wake-up call. The first wake-up call was from me: This agency needs to be reformed. And secondly, he got another one with this embarrassing disclosure today that, as I mentioned, got the President's attention this morning. I could barely get my coffee down when I opened up my local newspaper—well, a newspaper. [*Laughter*]

U.N. Security Council Resolution

Q. Mr. President, back on the Middle East, sir, can you tell us what was behind the timing of pursuing a U.N. resolution at this point regarding a future Palestinian state?

The President. Well, there was a—sometimes these resolutions just get a life of their own. And sometimes we have to veto them, and sometimes we can help—help the message. This time, we felt like we were able to make the message a clear message that we agreed with. If it was a message that tried to isolate or condemn our friend, I'd have vetoed it. In this case, it was a universal message that could lead to a more peaceful—a peaceful world. And so we supported it. As a matter of fact, we helped engineer it; we were a part of the process.

And as to the timing, I don't know the timing. All I know is the things start showing up on my desk. And——

Q. When did it start showing up on your radar screen, sir?

The President. Well, desk or radar screen, same thing. About 24 hours ago. And I heard from the Secretary of State and Condoleezza Rice that there was a little movement afoot there at the Security Council. And so we made a decision, a conscious decision to try to send a statement that it was a hopeful statement. It turned out to be a good statement, by the way. It was one of those statements that was embraced by all the parties except for one that couldn't bring themselves to vote for it, Syria.

But again, we are working hard to create the conditions for a security arrangement that will then enable the Mitchell process to kick in. I know you all are tired of hearing me say that. But unlike other parts of the world, in this part of the world, Tenet and Mitchell have been agreed to by both parties, which means there is a hopeful process if we can get people into the process. And so our mission is to do that. And that's why Zinni is over there.

Listen, I want to thank you very much. I've enjoyed this press conference. I hope you have as well. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 4 p.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia; U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); Mohamed Atta and Marwan Al-Shehhi, terrorists involved in the September 11 attacks; Edward Cardinal Egan, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York; Bernard Cardinal Law, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, MA; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Crown Prince Abdullah and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe; Mike Moore, Mississippi attorney general; Frank W. Hunger, Al Gore's brother-in-law; and former Governor William Winters of Mississippi. The President also referred to the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30, 2001; the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan of June 13, 2001, negotiated by Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; and H.R. 1885, the "Section 245(i) Extension Act of 2001."

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Telecommunications Payments to Cuba

March 12, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semiannual report prepared by my Administration detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result

of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 14.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Australia-United States Social Security Agreement

March 12, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95–216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia on Social Security, which consists of two separate instruments: a principal agreement and an administrative arrangement along with a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of each provision. The Agreement was signed at Canberra on September 27, 2001.

The United States-Australia Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The United States-Australia Agreement contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key points of the Agreement. Annexed to this report is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, a report on the effect of the Agreement on income and expenditures of the U.S. Social Security program and the number of individuals affected by the Agreement. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend the United States-Australia Social Security Agreement and related documents.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 12, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 14.

Remarks at the Inter-American Development Bank

March 14, 2002

Thank you all. *Sientese. Gracias,* Enrique. It's about time you invited a President here. [*Laughter*] It's about time one accepted.

Thank you for the energy and leadership you bring to the challenge of global development. I'm honored to be at the Inter-American Development Bank, which has done a lot of good in our hemisphere over the last 40 years. I appreciate your work, and I'm proud of your accomplishments.

Along with many of you, I'll be in Monterrey, Mexico, next week as leaders from around the world focus on the important work of reducing global poverty.

I'm here today to announce a major new commitment by the United States to bring hope and opportunity to the world's poorest people. Along with significant new resources to fight world poverty, we will insist on the reforms necessary to make this a fight we can win.

As you can see, I'm traveling in some pretty good company today: Bono. [*Laughter*] We just had a great visit in the Oval Office. Here's what I know about him: First, he's a good musician; secondly, he is willing to use his position in a responsible way. He is willing to lead, to achieve what his heart tells him, and that is nobody—nobody—should be

living in poverty and hopelessness in the world. Bono, I appreciate your heart. And to tell you what an influence you've had, Dick Cheney walked in the Oval Office; he said, "Jesse Helms wants us to listen to Bono's ideas." [*Laughter*]

I appreciate Paul O'Neill, Secretary of Treasury. I appreciate his work; I appreciate his advice. He's a fine member of my Cabinet. Cardinal McCarrick, thank you for coming, sir; I'm honored to have you here. Jim Wolfensohn, thank you for your leadership of the World Bank. I appreciate Jose Fourquet. Thank you, Jose, for taking on the responsibility you've done. It's good to see Andrew Natsios here of AID. Thank you, Andrew, for coming. You've done a fine job, by the way, in helping prevent starvation in Afghanistan. I appreciate your work, and I appreciate your focus. I want to thank John Negroponte, *Embajador de la* United Nations. I want to thank all the other Ambassadors who are here. I look around, I can see many familiar faces. Thank you all for coming today.

I appreciate the Members of the United States Congress who are here. I see Frist and DeWine from the United States Senate. I appreciate both Senators for coming. I appreciate the Congressman from Puerto Rico; thank you for coming, *senor*. I see the Congress lady from Miami, Florida. I see Spencer Bachus from Alabama. I think that's it; I better—well, anyway, if anybody else is here—[*laughter*]—Chris Cannon, I think, from Utah is here. Hey, Chris, thank you for coming, and thank you all for taking an interest in this subject. It's an important subject.

As you all know and we all know, America is engaged in a global struggle, a mighty struggle against the forces of terror. Yet, even as we fight to defeat terror, we must also fight for the values that make life worth living, for education and health and economic opportunity. This is both the history of our country, and it is the calling of our times.

In World War II, we fought to make the world safer, then worked to rebuild it. As we wage war today to keep the world safe from terror, we must also work to make the world a better place for all its citizens.

The advances of free markets and trade and democracy and rule of law have brought prosperity to an ever-widening circle of people in this world. During our lifetime, per capita income in the poorest countries has nearly doubled. Illiteracy has been cut by one-third, giving more children a chance to learn. Infant mortality has been almost halved, giving more children a chance to live. Nations from India to Chile have changed old ways and, therefore, found new wealth. Nations from Turkey to Mali have combined Islam with progress.

Yet in many nations, in many regions, poverty is broad and seemingly inescapable, leaving a dark shadow—a dark shadow—across a world that is increasingly illuminated by opportunity. Half the world's people still live on less than $2 a day. For billions, especially in Africa and the Islamic world, poverty is spreading, and per capita income is falling. In Malawi, thousands of teachers die each year from AIDS, and life expectancy has fallen to only 38 years. In Sierra Leone, nearly one-third of all babies born today will not reach the age of five, and in Sudan, only half the children attend school.

This growing divide between wealth and poverty, between opportunity and misery, is both a challenge to our compassion and a source of instability. We must confront it. We must include every African, every Asian, every Latin American, every Muslim, in an expanding circle of development.

The advance of development is a central commitment of American foreign policy. As a nation founded on the dignity and value of every life, America's heart breaks because of the suffering and senseless death we see in our world. We work for prosperity and opportunity because they're right. It's the right thing to do. We also work for prosperity and opportunity because they help defeat terror.

Poverty doesn't cause terrorism. Being poor doesn't make you a murderer. Most of the plotters of September the 11th were raised in comfort. Yet persistent poverty and oppression can lead to hopelessness and despair. And when governments fail to meet the most basic needs of their people, these failed states can become havens for terror.

In Afghanistan, persistent poverty and war and chaos created conditions that allowed a terrorist regime to seize power. And in many

other states around the world, poverty prevents governments from controlling their borders, policing their territory, and enforcing their laws.

Development provides the resources to build hope and prosperity and security. Development is not always easy, but the conditions required for sound development are clear. The foundation of development is security, because there can be no development in an atmosphere of chaos and violence. Today, the United States is leading a broad and vast coalition defending global security by defeating global terror. Meeting this commitment is expensive, but securing peace and freedom is never too expensive.

Development also depends upon financing. Contrary to the popular belief, most funds for development do not come from international aid; they come from domestic capital, from foreign investment, and especially from trade. America buys and imports over 500—$450 billion in products from the developing world every year—$450 billion of purchases every single year. That is more than 8 times the amount developing countries receive in aid from all sources. Trade is the engine of development, and by promoting it, we will help meet the needs of the world's poor.

Successful development also requires citizens who are literate, who are healthy and prepared and able to work. Development assistance can help poor nations meet these education and health care needs. That's why the United States provides more than $10 billion a year for development assistance for food and for humanitarian aid. That is also why my administration has committed $500 million to the global fund to fight AIDS and other infectious diseases.

And we will work with Congress to increase this commitment, to show our love and compassion by increasing our commitment as the fund gets organized, develops a strategy, and shows success. We're spending billions more on AIDS research and other programs to fight the disease around the world.

Yet many of the old models of economic development assistance are outdated. Money that is not accompanied by legal and economic reform are oftentimes wasted. In many poor nations, corruption runs deep; private property is unprotected; markets are closed; monetary and fiscal policies are unsustainable; private contracts are unenforceable.

When nations refuse to enact sound policies, progress against poverty is nearly impossible. In these situations, more aid money can actually be counterproductive because it subsidizes bad policies, delays reform, and crowds out private investment.

The needs of the developing world demand a new approach. In Monterrey, we have a tremendous opportunity to begin acting on a new vision of development. This new vision unleashes the potential of those who are poor, instead of locking them into a cycle of dependence. This new vision looks beyond arbitrary inputs from the rich and demands tangible outcomes for the poor.

America supports the international development goals in the U.N. Millennium Declaration and believes that these goals are a shared responsibility of developed and developing countries. To make progress, we must encourage nations and leaders to walk the hard road of political, legal, and economic reform so all their people can benefit.

Today I call for a new compact for global development, defined by new accountability for both rich and poor nations alike. Greater contributions from developed nations must be linked to greater responsibility from developing nations. The United States will lead by example. We will increase our development assistance by $5 billion over the three—over the next three budget cycles. This new money, above and beyond existing aid requests—is above and beyond existing aid requests in the current budget I submitted to the Congress.

These funds will go into a new Millennium Challenge Account. Under this account, among other efforts, we will expand our fight against AIDS. We will bring computer instruction to young professionals in developing nations. We will assist African businesses and their people to sell goods abroad. We will provide textbooks and training to students in Islamic and African countries. We will apply the power of science and technology to increase harvests where hunger is greatest.

These are some of the examples of what we intend to do. The goal is to provide people in developing nations the tools they need to seize the opportunities of the global economy. In return for this additional commitment, we expect nations to adopt the reforms and policies that make development effective and lasting.

The world's help must encourage developing countries to make the right choices for their own people, and these choices are plain. Good government is an essential condition of development. So the Millennium Challenge Account will reward nations that root out corruption, respect human rights, and adhere to the rule of law. Healthy and educated citizens are the agents of development, so we will reward nations that invest in better health care, better schools, and broader immunization.

Sound economic policies unleash the enterprise and creativity necessary for development. So we will reward nations that have more open markets and sustainable budget policies, nations where people can start and operate a small business without running the gauntlets of bureaucracy and bribery.

I've directed Secretary Powell and Secretary O'Neill to reach out to the world community, to develop a set of clear and concrete and objective criteria for measuring progress. And under the Millennium Challenge Account, we will apply these criteria rigorously and fairly.

Countries that live by these three broad standards—ruling justly, investing in their people, and encouraging economic freedom—will receive more aid from America. And more importantly, over time, they will really no longer need it, because nations with sound laws and policies will attract more foreign investment. They will earn more trade revenues, and they will find that all these sources of capital will be invested more effectively and productively to create more jobs for their people.

The evidence shows that where nations adopt sound policies, a dollar of foreign aid attracts $2 of private investment. And when development aid rewards reform and responsibility, it lifts almost 4 times as many people out of poverty, compared to the old approach of writing checks without regard to results.

Marrying good policies to greater aid led Mozambique to a 10-percent growth rate in 2001. This approach help Uganda open its schools to more children and increase teacher pay by 2,700 percent. Bangladesh, a nation that was once a symbol of famine, has transformed its agricultural economy; rice production is almost up by 70 percent since the mid-seventies.

The new compact I propose would multiply this progress. I challenge other nations and the development banks to adopt this approach as well. America's support for the World Bank will increase by almost 20 percent over the next 3 years. We expect the World Bank to insist on reform and results, measured in improvements in people's lives. All the development banks should adopt a growth agenda, increasing their support for private sector enterprises and focusing more on education, as the Inter-American Development Bank has done.

And I challenge the development banks to provide up to half of the funds devoted to poor nations in the form of grants, rather than loans—grants instead of loans that may never be repaid. Many have rallied to the idea of dropping the debt. I say let's rally to the idea of stopping the debt.

This new compact for development can produce dramatic gains against poverty and suffering in the world. I have an ambitious goal for the developed world, that we ought to double the size of the world's poorest economies within a decade. I know some may say that's too high a hurdle to cross. I don't believe so, not with the right reforms and the right policy. This will require tripling of current growth rates, but that's not unprecedented. After all, look at the dramatic growth that occurred in Asia in the 1990s.

With the world's help and the right policies, I know—I know—that the developing world can reform their own countries—I know it can happen—and, therefore, better their own lives. They can live in a world where their children's dreams are ignited by liberty and learning, not undermined by poverty and disease. They can live under governments that deliver basic service and protect basic rights. The demands of human dignity know no borders and know no boundaries. They are universal. And so are the gifts of

creativity and enterprise that lead to prosperity. When governments repress and punish those gifts, no amount—no amount—of aid is sufficient to lift people from poverty. When governments honor these gifts, every nation can know the blessings of prosperity.

People across the world are working to relieve poverty and suffering, and I'm proud of their efforts. I appreciate Bono. I appreciate groups like the Sisters of Charity. Some were motivated by simple decency; some serve a God who is impatient with injustice; and all have made this commitment. We cannot leave behind half of humanity as we seek a better future for ourselves. We cannot accept permanent poverty in a world of progress. There are no second-class citizens in the human race.

I carry this commitment in my soul, and I'll carry it with me to Monterrey next week. As the civilized world mobilizes against the forces of terror, we must also embrace the forces of good. By offering hope where there is none, by relieving suffering and hunger where there is too much, we will make the world not only safer but better.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:21 p.m. in the atrium. In his remarks, he referred to Enrique V. Iglesias, President, and Jose A. Fourquet, U.S. Executive Director, Inter-American Development Bank; Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, archbishop of Washington; and Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo-Vilá of Puerto Rico.

Statement on Action by the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Nomination of Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

March 14, 2002

I am deeply disappointed that Judge Charles Pickering, a distinguished judge who was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in the past, is being denied the opportunity to further serve his country. The action of the Senate Judiciary Committee to refuse Judge Pickering a vote by the full Senate leaves another empty seat in the Federal judiciary at a time when we face a vacancy crisis. It was unfortunate for democracy and unfortunate for America.

Judge Pickering has earned the praise and support of those who know him and know his record best—both Democrats and Republicans from his home State of Mississippi. They know him to be a fair and measured judge, an advocate of civil rights, and a dedicated member of his community. He has served with distinction and deserves better than to be blocked by a party line vote of 10 Senators on one committee. The voice of the entire Senate deserves to be heard.

Proclamation 7532—National Poison Prevention Week, 2002

March 14, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In 1961, the Congress established the annual observance of National Poison Prevention Week. Forty-one years later, this event continues to educate Americans about the dangers of childhood poisonings and to promote measures that help prevent such poisonings. These measures and other poison awareness efforts have helped reduce deaths from childhood poisonings by more than 90 percent since 1962.

According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, more than 1 million children each year are exposed to potentially poisonous medicines and household chemicals. In an effort to put an end to tragic accidents, the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission requires child-resistant packaging for many medicines and household chemicals. But this special packaging is "child-resistant," not "child-proof." For this reason, it is essential to keep potential poisons locked up and away from children.

Members of the Poison Prevention Week Council, representing 36 national organizations, work every year to organize events during this special week to raise awareness of unintentional poisonings, as well as to illustrate the steps that can be taken to prevent them. Coalition members believe every poisoning is preventable. Group members encourage Americans to use and properly

reclose child-resistant packaging, keep poisonous substances secured and out of the reach of children, and keep the poison center telephone number, 1–800–222–1222, nearby in case of an emergency. This new nationwide number connects callers to medical experts that provide immediate treatment advice for poison emergencies. These centers are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

To encourage Americans to learn more about the dangers of unintentional poisonings and to take more preventive measures, the Congress, by joint resolution approved September 26, 1961, as amended (75 Stat. 681), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week of March each year as "National Poison Prevention Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 17 through 23, 2002, as National Poison Prevention Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by participating in appropriate ceremonies and activities and by learning how to prevent poisonings among children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 18, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 19.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada

March 14, 2002

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of Canada, a personal friend and a great friend of America, back to the White House. We had a wide-ranging discussion on a lot of topics, starting with how appreciative I am of his steadfast support and the Canadian Government's steadfast support and the Canadian people's steadfast support in our war against terror. We know the Canadians have put troops on the ground in Afghanistan, and they have performed brilliantly. For that, we are grateful.

We also talked about our border. We've got a great relationship on our border. We've had a series of meaningful discussions on putting reforms in place. I believe our border cooperation is going to be the model for not only our hemisphere but also for the world.

We also talked about trade issues. Canada is a massive trading partner with the United States, and it's an important trading partner of the United States. And like any relationship that has got a lot of issues, sometimes we run into rough spots. And one such issue is softwood lumber. But our negotiators, as a result of the Prime Minister's assistance and my assistance, are working overtime to achieve an agreement by March the 21st. We're making very good progress. And we've agreed to keep working hard to achieve an agreement that is satisfactory to both parties, and I believe we can achieve that.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much for coming.

Oh, by the way, we talked energy. It's important for the American people to know that as a result of our trade agreements with Canada and our close relations, Canada is a significant supplier of energy to the United States. And that's positive. It's much better for us to be securing our energy from a friend and a stable friend and a partner.

And so I appreciate the Canadian energy business. I appreciate the exploration that's going on. It is good for our economy. I shared with the Prime Minister—I'm optimistic about our economy. We've still got some rough spots, but it looks like we may be improving. And if we are, that will be good news for both of us.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, welcome back. It is my honor to serve you dinner again, and it's a thrill to be with you.

Prime Minister Chretien. Thank you, Mr. President. I cannot add to what the President said. He covered the ground very well. I think the relations between America and Canada could not be better. We are solving problems when we have one. We are working with America in the war against terrorism. Our troops are in the fight at this moment in Afghanistan. You know, in the

snow, we're good at it, President, you know. And we——

President Bush. You're good on the ice, too. [*Laughter*]

Prime Minister Chretien. We are good on the ice, too—and both men and women. [*Laughter*] And so—and we have to work on our other problems. Thank you for the statement you made on softwood lumber. I think that the defense of our values and against terrorism are extremely important for Canadians. And we have worked very well together.

For me, I should say a few words in French, with your permission.

President Bush. Please

Prime Minister Chretien. Can you translate after that? [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, Prime Minister Chretien spoke in French and then resumed speaking in English.*]

I want to tell you that we spoke about Africa, and I want to say—I said that in French—I want to say thank you for what you have announced today, about the programs that you have announced, because as you know, at Kananaskis in Canada, at the G–8, the main topic will be Africa. And we want to establish a partnership with them. They came to Genoa last June; you and our colleagues asked me to take—[*inaudible*]—at that time. And I think that the partnership, and with your contribution, is developing very well.

Next month I will be traveling in Africa for—visiting five or six countries to build a partnership but to reward good governance, human rights, to make sure that they have real democracies, and so on. And those who don't do that will have to—not to be rewarded, because they will not meet what the world wants.

So thank you again, Mr. President.

For the press, I will take questions after my dinner. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. in the Colonnade at the White House.

Memorandum on Designation of Bahrain as a Major Non-NATO Ally

March 14, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002–10

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Designation of Bahrain as a Major Non-Nato Ally

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, by section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Act"), I hereby designate the Kingdom of Bahrain as a major non-NATO ally of the United States for the purposes of the Act and the Arms Export Control Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 15.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2003

March 14, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for FY 2003 budget amendments for the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Labor, Transportation, and the Treasury; the Environmental Protection Agency; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2003 Budget would not be increased by these requests. However, the total budgetary resources available to the Department of Transportation would increase by $596 million.

This transmittal also contains FY 2003 budget amendments for the Legislative Branch. As a matter of comity, appropriations requests of the Legislative Branch are transmitted without change. These additional amendments would increase discretionary resources for the Legislative Branch by $40.4 million.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 15. An original was not available for the verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks in Fayetteville, North Carolina

March 15, 2002

The President. Thank you all.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Thank you all very much. At ease! [*Laughter*] General McNeill, thank you very much. For a warrior, you're pretty darn articulate. Thank you all for such a warm welcome. It's great to be here in Cumberland County, North Carolina.

I'm also honored to be here with fine men and women who wear our uniform from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the world's finest fighting soldiers. For generations, Fort Bragg has stood for the best in the United States military. And now, along with those stationed at Pope Air Force Base, you're playing a crucial role, a vital role, a successful role in our defense of freedom, in our war against terror. I'm proud of your service. I thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I want to thank General Holland, Commander in Chief, Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command. I want to thank General Brown. I want to thank all the fine men and women of the 18th Airborne Corps, the Special Forces, and the Special Operation units. It is good to be with the fine folks of the 43d Airlift Wing.

I am honored to be traveling with members of the North Carolina congressional delegation, two of whom you've just heard from, Congressman McIntyre, Congressman Hayes. Congressman Etheridge is with us today, as is my friend Elizabeth Dole. Thank you all for coming.

One week ago this coliseum was the scene of graduation ceremonies for the latest group of soldiers to have earned the right to wear the Green Beret. In doing so, they will join the ranks of some of the best and bravest citizens we have. The soldiers and sailors and airmen of the U.S. Special Operations Command are the best in the world, and the world is seeing how tough and how brave they are today.

Our Special Operations forces know the danger that awaits them. This is a dangerous battle that we face, a dangerous war. And I'm proud of the courage not only of the soldiers who volunteer for battle but for the loved ones who remain behind. Not only am I proud of our soldiers, I am proud of the wives and husbands and sons and daughters and moms and dads. And on behalf of a grateful nation, we thank you as well. We appreciate your courage and your sacrifice.

Two young men from the Special Forces were recently laid to rest, Chief Warrant Officer Stanley Harriman and Air Force Tech Sergeant John Chapman. I want their families to know that we pray with them, that we honor them, and they died in a just cause, for defending freedom, and they will not have died in vain. Because of such soldiers, a vicious regime has been toppled in Afghanistan, and an entire people have been liberated from oppression. Because of American soldiers and our brave allies and friends who have fought beside them, the Taliban is out of business.

At the beginning of this war, I made it very clear—as clear as a fellow from Texas could make it—either you're with us, or you're against us. And if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you try to hide a terrorist, you are just as guilty as the murderers who killed innocent Americans on September the 11th. And thanks to the mighty United States military, the Taliban found out exactly what I meant.

But the world has seen we are not conquerors; we're liberators. We fight for freedom, and at the same time, we have saved a people from mass starvation. We fight for freedom, but at the same time, we're clearing away minefields, rebuilding roads, and opening up hospitals. We fight for freedom, and yet, next week schools will reopen in Afghanistan, and for the first time, many young girls

will go to school for the first times in their lives.

We haven't been at this struggle very long. I know it seems like a long time for those of you whose loved ones are overseas. But we've been at it for 6 months, and we've made a lot of progress. And you know what? The terrorists have now figured out they picked on the wrong people. They must have thought we were soft. They must have thought we were so materialistic that we wouldn't fight for values that we loved. They must have thought that we were so self-absorbed that the word, "sacrifice" had left the American vocabulary. And my, were they wrong.

Thousands of terrorists have been brought to justice. But I want you to know, my fellow citizens, we will not relent. We will not slow down until the threat of global terrorism has been destroyed. I have made this message clear to the American people. I have made this message clear to our vast coalition, and I've made this message clear to our enemies, and our military has delivered the message.

We have finished the first phase of our war against terror. You see, when we routed out the Taliban, we completed that phase, and now we're entering a second stage of what I think will be a long war. It's a sustained campaign, a tireless, relentless campaign, to deny sanctuary, to deny safe haven to terrorists who would threaten citizens anywhere in the world, threaten our way of life, threaten our friends, threaten our allies. These terrorists are now on the run, and we intend to keep them on the run.

Oh, we know their strategy. They want to try to regroup, and they want to hit us. We're doing everything we can to stop them. No, we know their strategy. We also know they're the most committed, the most dangerous, the least likely to surrender. Folks, these are trained killers who hate freedom, and so long as they're on the loose, we're in danger. And therefore, in order to keep them from harming any of our citizens again, we're going to hunt them down, one by one. This mighty nation will not blink; we will not yield. We will defend the innocent lives of the American people by bringing terrorist killers to justice.

Obviously, as you well know, we found some of them bunched up in the Shahi-Kot Mountains. And we sent our military in, and they're not bunched up anymore. [*Laughter*] And when we find them bunched up again, we'll send our military in, and the same thing will happen. You know, they've got these leaders that are so bold that they're willing to send youngsters to their suicide while they try to hide in deep caves. But they're going to find out there is not a cave deep enough to escape the long arm of American justice.

And so as fellow citizens, you need to know the strategy of this new phase is this: We want every terrorist to be made to live like an international fugitive, on the run, with no place to settle, no place to organize, no place to hide, no governments to hide behind, not even a safe place to sleep. And we're going to stay at it. You watch, we're going to stay at it for however long it takes. And the good news is, the American people are united and patient and understand the nature of the struggle ahead. And for that I'm grateful, and so are the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States military.

At the same time, the civilized world must take seriously the growing threat of terror on a catastrophic scale. We've got to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, because there is no margin for error and there is no chance to learn from any mistake. The United States and her allies will act deliberately. We'll be deliberate, but inaction is not an option. Men who have no respect for life must never be allowed to control the ultimate instruments of death. I have made it clear that we will not let the most dangerous regimes in the world team up with killers and, therefore, hold this great Nation hostage. Whatever it takes to defend the liberty of America, this administration will do.

I want you to know that even though we have made great progress in 6 short months, I am aware that history will judge us not based upon the beginning of this campaign but how it ends. Great challenges lie ahead, and we're in for a long struggle. And therefore, we must make sure that our United States military must have everything it needs to meet the objective.

And just like our military has responsibilities, I have responsibilities as the Commander in Chief to the military. In every stage of the war on terror, I can assure you our actions will be carefully planned and carefully prepared. Our objectives will be clear. We will be deliberate, but when we act, we'll be decisive. I will give clear orders, and I will make sure that you have every tool you need to do your job.

I've asked Congress for a one-year increase of more than $48 billion for national defense. This is the largest defense increase in a generation, because we're at war, and Congress needs to pass this budget. And by the way, it includes another pay raise for people who wear the uniform.

Nothing is more important than the national security of our country—nothing is more important—so nothing is more important than our defense budget. I've heard some of them talking about, you know, "It's too big," up there. Let me just make this as clear as I can make it: The price for freedom is high, but it's never too high, as far as I'm concerned.

As you know, if you follow the budget process, oftentimes Congress waits until the last days of the fiscal year in order to pass the defense budget. That's bad budgeting practices in times of peace. It's really bad budgeting practices in times of war. I expect the United States Congress to not only pass the budget as I submitted; I expect them to make it the first order of business, so we can plan for this war.

Now is not the time to play politics with the defense budget. Now is the time to get it out first and get it on my desk. We need to send that clear message that not only are we in this for the long haul, but the elected Representatives of the United States people understand it as well. I'm proud of the bipartisan spirit that exists in our war against terror. Now, let's just make sure we've got some good budgeting practices to go along with it.

We're working hard to make sure the homeland is secure. I'll never forget, right after September the 11th, I went to see some high school kids, and they were seniors. And it dawned on me that—obviously on them, too—that this is the first high school class that had ever seen an attack on the homeland like this, at least on the 48 States that are contiguous. And it reminded me then—and I've never forgotten it—that oceans no longer matter when it comes to making us safe, that we have a giant obligation, an obligation I take very seriously here at home, to make sure we do everything we can to protect innocent life.

So you need to know that any time we get a hint about somebody may be thinking about doing something, we're on them. Every time we get a scintilla of evidence that somebody might be trying to get in here or burrow in our society, we're doing everything we can—everything we can—to protect the American people. We honor our Constitution, but we're on alert. And so are many of you all, and I want to thank you for that.

We've got a good first-responders initiative. We've got a great initiative on bioterrorism. We're making our borders more secure. We want to make sure we know who's coming in and who's coming out. We want to make sure the INS is reformed. [*Laughter*] As you might—could tell by the news that day, I was plenty hot—[*laughter*]—when I read about the bureaucratic inefficiency of this agency. We're going to do everything we can to reform it. We want to button up the homeland as best as we possibly can.

But my attitude is this: The best way to secure the homeland is to unleash the mighty United States military and hunt them down and bring them to justice. And the best way to fight evil at home is to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. The best way to stand squarely in the face of those who hijacked a good religion is to live a life that helps people in need.

You know, the true strength of our country is much greater than our military. The true strength of America are the hearts and souls of loving American citizens. And we have an obligation in our free society to work to make our society as compassionate and as kind as it can possibly be.

Today I had the honor, when I landed here, to meet Jane Davis. Where are you, Jane? There she is. Jane, thank you. Don't clap yet until you hear about her. She's the wife of Colonel Gary Matteson of Fort Bragg. The reason I mention Jane is because she

is an example of what I'm talking about, about the strength of the country. Right after September the 11th, she left North Carolina to volunteer at Ground Zero in New York City. Nobody had to tell Jane. There wasn't a Government edict. There wasn't a telegram from Washington, DC, directing her to go to Ground Zero. She followed her heart. She knew it was the right thing to do. It's the Jane Davises that really defined America for the world to see.

And you can be—you can help a neighbor in all kinds of ways. You can walk across a street to a shut-in and say, "What can I do to help your day?" Or you can mentor a child, or you can teach in a classroom. If you want to help, you can get on the Internet and dial up usafreedomcorps.gov and see. And we've got a member of the Senior Corps here, which is a part of the USA Freedom Corps. If you want to be involved, there's all kinds of ways—all you've got to do to act. But if you're interested in joining the war against terror, do something to make your community a more vibrant and kind place.

It is what I like to call the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness that define America for what we are. And I'm proud to be the President of a nation that is dedicated and firm in our defense of liberty, that will stand strong when we defend freedom and not blink or tire. And likewise, I'm proud to be the President of a nation whose true strength are the hearts and souls of citizens from all walks of life.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:54 a.m. at the Cumberland County Coliseum Complex. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Dan K. McNeill, USA, commanding general, 18th Airborne Corps; Gen. Charles R. Holland, USAF, Commander in Chief, Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command; Lt. Gen. Bryan D. Brown, USA, commander, U.S. Army Special Operations Command; North Carolina senatorial candidate Elizabeth Dole; and Col. Gary N. Matteson, USA, commander, Womack Army Medical Center. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters at Fort Bragg, North Carolina

March 15, 2002

President's Visit

Q. Mr. President, it was a little noisy over there; could you give us your impression of what you——

The President. I was very impressed. We've got the finest soldiers in the world. We've got a great training mission, and I'm glad those soldiers are on my side.

Q. What kind of message should that display send to adversaries?

The President. Well, what the adversaries need to know is we're going to do what is necessary to have a well-trained military to accomplish a major objective, an important objective, which is, defend freedom. And the adversaries need to know that we're going to be in this for a long time, that we're going to be steady, relentless, and we're going to win.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Sir, what are you hearing from General Zinni? Is his mission making any headway?

The President. Haven't heard from him yet, but I believe there's good progress in the Middle East. Obviously, the Israelis have moved back some of their troops. That's a positive development. And I have yet to hear from Zinni, but we will soon.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—troop withdrawal from Ramallah?

The President. Well, we're very pleased with it. As I said, that one of the things we've got to do is to work with both parties to establish the conditions for eventual peace. And I appreciate Prime Minister Sharon's decision. General Zinni is in the region now. We're hopeful that he'll have an impact on setting the conditions for peace, which begins with getting into the Tenet plan and then, eventually, the Mitchell plan. I thought that was a positive development yesterday.

Q. How hopeful are you that he'll be able to succeed?

The President. If I wasn't hopeful, I wouldn't have sent him.

Mikey, Mikey, Mikey [Mike Allen, Washington Post].

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Did that get any national play, that "Mikey, Mikey, Mikey"?

Q. With my family.

President's Visit

Q. What about lunch, Mr. President? What do you think of it? Are you getting ready to dig in? What have you seen today? Are you pretty happy?

The President. Well, first of all, I knew our troops were good because I've been reading reports about how good they are. I got to see firsthand—I'm going to see all day long, firsthand—the esprit de corps is very high here. These soldiers are proud to wear the uniform. Great command staff; they've got highly motivated officers; they are well-trained. Every one of the troops, as I moved down the line, spoke a foreign language. To give you an example of how well-trained they are, the medics, these highly trained young men, can conduct—they can pull a tooth, or they can amputate a leg, if need be. I mean, these are fabulously trained soldiers. I'm real proud of their training.

One of the things we've got the make sure that Congress understands is that we've got to spend the money necessary to keep them highly trained. They all know we're in for a long struggle. They're prepared to make the sacrifices to meet that struggle.

I had the honor of meeting with the widows of two of the soldiers who died—and their dad and their mom of one of the guys—and to a person, they said, "Mr. President, don't falter." These people just lost a loved one, and they are just as resolved about winning this war on terror as I am. And I was very impressed by their steadfast support for what we're doing and their understanding of the sacrifices necessary to defend freedom.

Now I'm going to eat my lasagna. If it gets cold, you have to eat the lasagna. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 12 noon while walking through the lunch line. In his remarks, the President referred to U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret.); and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this exchange. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 9

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a Gridiron Club dinner.

March 11

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will visit Germany on May 22–23, Russia on May 23–26, and France on May 26–27.

March 12

In the morning, the President traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where he visited the People's Emergency Center, a social service agency for homeless women, teenagers, and their children. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President had seperate meetings in the Oval Office with Minister of Defense Sergey Borisovich Ivanov of Russia and President Islom Karimov of Uzbekistan.

The President declared a major disaster in Oregon and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm with high winds on February 7–8.

March 13

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President attended a Friends of Ireland luncheon hosted by Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert in the Rayburn Room at the U.S. Capitol. Later, he returned to the White House and dropped by a White House symposium on writers of the Harlem Renaissance, hosted by Mrs. Bush.

The President announced his intention to nominate David A. Gross for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Communications and Information Policy in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy.

The President announced the appointment of Reuben Jeffery III as Special Advisor for Lower Manhattan Development.

March 14

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. In the afternoon, he met with musician and activist Bono in the Oval Office concerning assistance for developing countries.

The President announced the following recipients of the National Medal of Arts for 2001: Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation; Rudolfo Anaya; Johnny Cash; Kirk Douglas; Helen Frankenthaler; Judith Jamison; Yo-Yo Ma; and Mike Nichols.

The President announced the following recipients of the National Humanities Medal for 2001: Jose Cisneros; Robert Coles; Sharon Darling; William Manchester; National Trust for Historic Preservation; Richard Peck; Eileen Jackson Southern; and Tom Wolfe.

The President announced his intention to nominate Phyllis Fong to be Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture.

March 15

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Fayetteville, NC, and then to Fort Bragg, NC. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC, and then went to Camp David, MD.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 13

Gorden Edward Eden, Jr.,
of New Mexico, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of New Mexico for the term of 4 years, vice John Steven Sanchez, term expired.

David Phillip Gonzales,
of Arizona, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Arizona for the term of 4 years, vice Alfred E. Madrid, term expired.

David A. Gross,
of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Communications and Information Policy in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy.

William P. Kruziki,
of Wisconsin, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for the term of 4 years, vice Nannette Holly Hegerty, term expired.

John Lee Moore,
of Texas, to be U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice Norris Batiste, Jr., term expired.

Michael Pack,
of Maryland, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2004, vice Darryl J. Gless, term expired.

Charles M. Sheer,
of Missouri, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Missouri for the term of 4 years, vice Robert Bradford English, term expired.

Harold D. Stratton,
of New Mexico, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, vice Ann Brown.

Harold D. Stratton,
of New Mexico, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 26, 2006, vice Ann Brown.

Edward Zahren,
of Colorado, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Colorado for the term of 4 years, vice Ernestine Rowe, term expired.

Submitted March 14

Steven Robert Blust,
of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2006, vice Antony M. Merck, term expired.

Celeste Colgan,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2008, vice Jon N. Moline, term expired.

Phyllis K. Fong,
of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, vice Roger C. Viadero, resigned.

W. Roy Grizzard,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice John Martin Manley, resigned.

Wilfred M. McClay,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Bill Duke.

Evelyn Dee Potter Rose,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Richard J. Stern, term expired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released March 11

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2998

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to Germany, Russia, and France

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Announce Homeland Security Advisory System

Released March 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer and USA Freedom Corps Director John Bridgeland

Fact sheet: USA Freedom Corps: Fostering a Culture of Service, Citizenship and Responsibility

Transcript of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge announcing the homeland security advisory system

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Oregon

Fact sheet: Homeland Security Advisory System

Released March 13

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1892 and H.R. 3699

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Deliver Remarks at the Food Safety Summit

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the District of Arizona, the Eastern District of Texas, the District of Colorado, the District of New Mexico, and the Eastern District of Wisconsin

Released March 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Pan Am 103 Verdict

Fact sheet: A New Compact for Development

Released March 15

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Deliver Remarks at the

International Association of Firefighters 2002 Legislative Conference

Acts Approved by the President

Approved March 9

H.R. 3090 / Public Law 107–147
Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002

Approved March 11

H.R. 2998 / Public Law 107–148
Radio Free Afghanistan Act

Approved March 12

S. 1206 / Public Law 107–149
Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2002

Approved March 13

H.R. 1892 / Public Law 107–150
Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2002

H.R. 3699 / Public Law 107–151
To revise certain grants for continuum of care assistance for homeless individual and families

Approved March 14

S.J. Res. 32 / Public Law 107–152
Congratulating the United States Military Academy at West Point on its bicentennial anniversary, and commending its outstanding contributions to the Nation

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